



Aquitaine

by Simon Barnard and Paul Morris

THE DOCTOR: PETER DAVISON
Time traveller.

NYSSA: SARAH SUTTON
Time traveller's companion.

TEGAN: JANET FIELDING
Time traveller's companion.

HARGREAVES:
Subservient spaceship computer. Speaks through an 'intracom' and downloads itself into robots – including **BUTLER, GARDENER, MEDIC.**

DR SERGEI AKUNIN:
(M, 50s) The ship's Russian-accented botanist.

CAPTAIN ANNA MAYNARD:
(F, 40s) Captain of the Aquitaine.

LT MAURIZIO SAVINIO:
(M, 30s) Crewman.

LT FREYA JENNINGS:
(F, 20s) Ex-crewman, sometimes manifests as her own **GHOST.**

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PART ONE

SCENE 1. NARRATION/MONTAGE

BEGIN WITH CREAKS AND GROANS OF STRESSED METAL ON SPACESHIP, SIMILAR TO 19TH CENTURY SAILING SHIP.

CUTLERY BEING POLISHED, ACCOMPANIED BY THE GENTLE WHIRR OF ROBOTIC ARMS EXTENDING AND RETRACTING.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Whilst cleaning silverware, one must not be overzealous. Be mindful that each time a knife, fork or spoon is polished, a little of the surface is removed. Cotton gloves must be worn at all times.

CROSS TO: CLINKING CUTLERY AS TABLE IS SET.

The table must then be set. Three forks (dessert, dinner and salad); two knives (dinner and fish, blades pointing inwards); two spoons (soup and teaspoon); and a butter spreader. The water goblet is placed above each guest's dinner knife; wine and sherry glasses to the right. Napkins are situated to the left of the forks. Everything must be just so.

CROSS TO: EGG BOILING IN WATER.

The days seem longer now. Longer, and filled with a harsh silence. So I keep busy. Today I am up with the lark. I water the plants, run the diagnostics, and do the dusting, all before breakfast. I cook the Captain's eggs the way she likes them.

FADE OUT BOILING WATER.

But the Captain doesn't eat her eggs. Not today.

So I tidy the breakfast things away, and rotate the ship six inches to the left, so I can better chart the Caelum constellation.

QUICK BURST OF VACUUM CLEANER.

Then, I vacuum the carpets.

Luncheon is at one o'clock – salmon and turbot terrine, lychee sorbet, chargrilled fillet of beef and butterscotch cheesecake. I light the candles. And then I wait. Nobody eats it.

At three o'clock I go outside to clean the windows of the observation deck, taking care that my anti-gravity thrusters are in working order. Late afternoon I pass by the driving range, and briefly consider a round of golf with Butterworth, the service robot. But Butterworth is very stupid; it would be no contest. Instead I play chess, against myself.

And now I wait patiently in the dining room, till the candles putter out. The glasses remain untouched, the wine – a lively '45 Sangiovese – likewise.

PLATES SCRAPED, CLEARED.

I clear the dinner service, and do the dishes.

At ten o'clock I dim the lights in the sleeping quarters. But the freshly-laundered bedsheets go undisturbed. No-one sleeps on the HMS Aquitaine tonight. The lights of a thousand galaxies twinkle in the infinite darkness outside. It is very quiet.

Tomorrow, I realise, will be the same. And the day after that. It is a sad state of affairs to be a gentleman's personal gentleman, when one's gentleman – or lady – is missing.

SCENE 2. TARDIS CONSOLE ROOM – IN FLIGHT

HUM OF CONSOLE ROOM, STEADY WHIRR OF TIME ROTOR. ALARM SOUNDS.

DOCTOR:

Now that's unusual...

NYSSA:

I don't think I've heard that alarm before. Is it serious?

DOCTOR:

Oh, no – well, not for us, anyway.

BEEPING AS THE DOCTOR PRESSES SWITCHES

NYSSA:

Perhaps you should turn it down, before it disturbs Teg[an] –

INTERNAL DOOR OPENS, TEGAN ENTERS

TEGAN:

What a racket! Come on then, what's gone wrong this time?

DOCTOR:

And good morning to you too, Tegan. It's nothing to do with the TARDIS. It's a distress signal.

TEGAN:

Well, aren't you going to answer it?

MORE BEEPING

DOCTOR:

That's what I've been trying to do. (BEAT) No answer.

NYSSA:

It could just be an automated signal.

DOCTOR:

Which wouldn't preclude an emergency. Only one way to find out.

TEGAN:

We're going to look?

DOCTOR:

We are. (MORE BEEPING) Just need to lock on to the signal...

ALARM STOPS.

DOCTOR:

Got it.

TARDIS MATERIALISATION

TEGAN:

We're landing?

DOCTOR:

We're here. The source of the signal.

NYSSA:

That was quick.

TEGAN:

And smooth. We didn't have to grab onto the console for support or anything.

DOCTOR:

Yes. Well. Let's see where we are, shall we?

HE PRESSES A SWITCH. SCANNER SCREEN OPENS

DOCTOR:

Now that is odd.

TEGAN:

It's a jungle!

NYSSA:

Doctor, are you sure we've landed in the right place?

DOCTOR:

One hundred per cent.

TEGAN:

One hundred??

DOCTOR:

Ninety-ish, certainly. There, you see - the TARDIS is telling me we've landed *inside* the other ship.

TEGAN:

But in a jungle? A jungle *inside* a spaceship?

DOCTOR:

It's a mystery. And I do like a mystery. (OPERATES DOOR CONTROLS) After you...?

TEGAN WALKS TOWARDS INTERNAL DOOR

TEGAN:

You first. I'm going to change into some sensible shoes.

SCENE 3. AQUITAINE BOTANICAL GARDENS

TROPICAL RAINFOREST. LOW RUMBLE OF THUNDER IN THE DISTANCE. OCCASIONAL CREAKS AND GROANS OF METAL STRESS, AS SHIP IS BUFFETED BY TIME WINDS. (N.B. THUNDER AND METAL STRESS FX APPEAR FREQUENTLY THROUGHOUT ALL OF STORY.) TARDIS DOOR OPENS; DOCTOR STEPS OUT.

DOCTOR:

Fascinating. (SHOUTS BACK INSIDE TARDIS) You'll like this, Nyssa. Tropical, sub-tropical and temperate species all in the one place.

RUSTLING OF SHRUBBERY, WHIRR OF SERVO MOTORS AS ROBOT BUTLER EMERGES AND WALKS TOWARDS THE TARDIS

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Hello, Sir.

DOCTOR:

Oh. Um... Hello.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

If Sir would excuse me?

WHIRR AS HARGREAVES EXTENDS A FEATHER DUSTER FROM HIS ARM.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

(HUMMING, DUSTING TARDIS) La la la la-la...

NYSSA EXITS TARDIS

NYSSA:

Doctor... what's that robot doing?

DOCTOR:

Dusting the TARDIS, it'd appear.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

(STOPS) I wonder: would a beeswax polish produce a more beneficial effect? Nothing brings tired wood to life better than a traditional beeswax polish. I have some in my chest cavity, if Sir would allow...?

DOCTOR:

Be my guest.

A PANEL ON HARGREAVES' CHEST SLIDES BACK. WITH A WHIRR HARGREAVES PRODUCES SOME BEESWAX, AND BEGINS TO POLISH.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Oh yes, sir. Look at that. She really does come up a treat.

NYSSA:

It *does* look better.

THE TARDIS ISSUES A GENTLE SHUDDERING, GROANING SOUND

DOCTOR:

Well – the old girl certainly seems to like it. Carry on –
(BEAT) Um...?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Hargreaves, Sir. I am the ship's computer. And valet.

DOCTOR:

Well – carry on, Hargreaves. Good man.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Very good, Sir.

DOCTOR:

Call me Doctor. This is Nyssa.

TARDIS DOOR OPENS. TEGAN EXITS

TEGAN:

What's happening? The TARDIS is acting funny.

DOCTOR:

And *this* is Tegan.

TEGAN:

It's making... weird noises.

NYSSA:

Beeswax, Tegan.

TEGAN:

Beeswax?

DOCTOR:

Yes, beeswax. Who'd have thought? Tegan – this is Hargreaves.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Delighted, Miss. Welcome to the Aquitaine. Some tea, perhaps, while you enjoy our botanical gardens?

NYSSA:

Thank you, Hargreaves. Tea would be lovely.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I have Chai, Chamomile, Earl Grey, English breakfast...

NYSSA:

That one.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

A most excellent choice, Miss. And for Miss T- (BREAKS OFF)
Where has she gone?

NYSSA:

She's wandered off, Hargreaves.

DOCTOR:

Well, that must be a new record.

TEGAN:

(OFF) Doctor? Come and have a look at this!

CROSS TO:

SCENE 4. BOTANICAL GARDENS, NEAR WINDOW [CONTINUOUS]

RUSTLING (AND WHIRRING) AS THE DOCTOR, NYSSA AND HARGREAVES EMERGE FROM THE SHRUBBERY... ONTO METAL FLOOR.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

(APPROACHING FROM OFF) Ah. I believe Miss Tegan may have located the viewing window.

TEGAN:

Got it in one, Metal Mickey. – What *is* that? Outside?

SHE TAPS ON THE WINDOW. THE OTHERS JOIN HER.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

That, Miss, is H.E. zero-four five-zero two-nine five-eight.

NYSSA:

A black hole.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

This vessel – the HMS Aquitaine – is situated on its outer fringes, in the ergosphere. While our primary mission is to collect atmospheric and botanical samples, we have of late been taking ergospherical readings. It has been an interesting diversion.

TEGAN:

It's... amazing. Kind of beautiful.

DOCTOR:

I suppose it is, rather. Wouldn't want to get too close to it, though. – See that light, top left?

NYSSA:

A red giant.

DOCTOR:

Yes. About to be eaten by the black hole.

TEGAN:

Poor red giant.

DOCTOR:

Gamma Caeli, if I'm not mistaken. (BEAT) Still, we have more pressing matters. – Tell me, Hargreaves: why the distress signal?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

It's my crew, Sir. The crew of the Aquitaine. They disappeared. Seven days ago.

DOCTOR:

Disappeared? How?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

That I cannot say, Sir. I... cannot remember. One moment they were here, the next they were not. Tea for you, sir?

DOCTOR:

No. Thank you. How many crew were there?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Four, sir. Captain Maynard, Doctor Akunin, and crewmen Jennings and Savinio. Plus Butterworth and myself.

TEGAN:

Who's Butterworth?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

A service robot, Miss, of limited intelligence.

FREYA (GHOST):

(60 YDS DISTANT) (SCREAMS IN PAIN)

NYSSA:

If there's no-one else here, then what was that?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Merely one of the voices, Miss.

DOCTOR:

Voices? You didn't say anything about voices...?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I do apologise for the oversight, Sir. There are the occasional noises - cries, whispers, screams and so forth - but they have no material presence, so I try to ignore them.

TEGAN:

No material... Are you saying this ship is *haunted*?

DOCTOR:

Now, Tegan, let's not jump to conclusions. Just because something sounds like a scream, doesn't mean -

FREYA (GHOST):

(50 YDS DISTANT) No... Nooooooooooooo...!

NYSSA:

That was definitely a scream.

DOCTOR:

Well, yes. In this case, you may be right.

TEGAN:

Come on - it came from this direction. (RUNS OFF THROUGH A DOORWAY)

DOCTOR:

Now, don't just run off, Tegan.

NYSSA:

I think we should follow. (FOLLOWS TEGAN)

DOCTOR:

Or you, Nyssa...!

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

So impetuous, these young people.

DOCTOR:

Indeed, Hargreaves.

WITH A SIGH, THE DOCTOR RUNS AFTER THEM

SCENE 5. CORRIDOR BETA 17, BOTANICAL ZONE

TEGAN RUNS AROUND THE CORNER INTO A WIDE BUT OVERGROWN CORRIDOR, FOLLOWED BY NYSSA

TEGAN:

It came from down here. I think.

NYSSA:

I thought so too.

TEGAN:

But there's no-one around. (CALLING) Hello? Is there anyone there?

BEAT. THE DOCTOR ARRIVES

DOCTOR:

Apparently not.

TEGAN:

There could be anything hiding in this jungle.

DOCTOR:

Yes, it is running wild rather. I'm surprised Hargreaves has let it get to this state - seems a fastidious sort of chap.

RUSTLING FOLIAGE AS A DROID EMERGES FROM THE UNDERGROWTH, THIS TIME ROLLING ON CATERPILLAR TRACKS

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

You called, sir?

TEGAN:

Another robot!

DOCTOR:

Hello there. And who might you be?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Hargreaves, Sir.

TEGAN:

But we've just met Hargreaves.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

I am the *same* Hargreaves that you met before, Miss.

TEGAN:

But you don't look anything like him. Hargreaves is tall and wears a sort of... bowler hat?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

I inhabit all the droids on the Aquitaine, Miss. To all intents and purposes, I *am* the Aquitaine. This particular unit is the ship's horticultural droid.

TEGAN:

Gardener as well as butler? They get their money's worth out of you.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

I perform every function necessary to ensure both the safe running of the Aquitaine and the comfort of its crew.

DOCTOR:

And I'm sure you do it excellently. I mean, you could possibly prune these shrubs back a little more, but let's not quibble. (BEAT) Hargreaves, we thought we heard a scream come from somewhere around here. I don't suppose you heard anything, did you?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

I did, Sir. A sound very much resembling a scream came from a point four metres to your right, to be precise.

TEGAN:

But there's no-one there!

DOCTOR:

I think we've established that...

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

As I said, Sir. The cries, the whispers, the screams – they are all non-corporeal. I cannot provide an explanation.

BEAT

NYSSA:

What is this place? Are we still in the botanical gardens?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

No, Miss. This is merely service corridor Beta Seventeen.

TEGAN:

A service corridor? It's more like a garden centre!

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Yes, madam. The corridors *do* seem to have become a trifle overgrown, now that you point it out. It seems that these flora are of the same genus as those in the botanical cultivation centre.

NYSSA:

And where is that?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Behind you, madam. Through that doorway.

NYSSA:

Doorway? Where?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Behind the large bromeliad, Miss.

TEGAN:

That shrub? It must be thirty foot high!

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Yes... Yes, that really should be cut back a little, shouldn't it? Rest assured, I shall add it to the list.

DOCTOR:

So these plants in this corridor have spread from the room beyond?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Yes, Sir. They were taken as cuttings from the planet EBT-seventy-seven during our recent visit.

DOCTOR:

And that was how long ago?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Around three months ago, Sir.

NYSSA:

But that's an extraordinary rate of growth. Almost impossible!

TEGAN:

Auntie Vanessa had Japanese knotweed in her garden once, you should see that stuff go.

DOCTOR:

Hmm. Hargreaves, I wouldn't mind a look in this cultivation room.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Of course. If you think it will help.

DOCTOR:

I think I can squeeze... past this thing... Ah!

TEGAN:

(FOLLOWING; EFFORT) Right behind you, Doc.

DOCTOR:

(FROM INSIDE LAB) Goodness, what a mess!

TEGAN:

(FROM INSIDE LAB) Nyssa, you coming?

NYSSA:

(DISTRACTEDLY) Just a moment, Tegan. – Hargreaves: is that *writing*?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Where, Madam?

NYSSA:

Just there – on the wall, behind that fern. It's very faint, but I'm sure it's writing.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Are you referring to the symbols that have been etched into the moss?

NYSSA:

That's right. It starts "L", "E" ... then a gap... "P", "I" ... is that a "G"?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

I do believe you're right. And the final two characters are "B" and "A".

NYSSA:

"L.E. – space – P.I.G. – space – B.A.". Do you know who might have done such a thing? Or why?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Neither, I'm afraid. I do apologise – it is most unsightly. I shall add it to my list.

SCENE 6. CULTIVATION ROOM

ANOTHER LOW RUMBLE OF THUNDER.

TEGAN:

Is that... thunder?

DOCTOR:

More likely the ship being tossed about in the ergosphere. Nothing to worry about.

TEGAN:

I wasn't - (SNEEZES)

DOCTOR:

Dust allergy?

TEGAN:

(SNIFFING) Not usually, no. But this place could really do with a spring clean...

DOCTOR:

Hargreaves does seem to be letting things slip a bit. Perhaps his mind is on other things.

TEGAN:

Didn't he say there were loads of him, though? Like my Aunt Vanessa always said, many hands make light work.

DOCTOR:

Oh, I imagine there would be dozens of droids on a ship this size. But they're all controlled by a single intelligence. A single point of failure. Well, potentially.

TEGAN:

You think Jeeves has... lost the plot?

DOCTOR:

I'm keeping an open mind.

TEGAN:

So this ship's from Earth, right?

DOCTOR:

Or one of the colonies. Your descendants, Tegan. Studying the universe, asking questions. Such an inquisitive species. Some civilizations never leave their home planet, you know.

TEGAN:

Yeah. But you know what curiosity did to the cat.

NYSSA:

(OFF) (YELLS IN PAIN)

DOCTOR:

(ALARM) Nyssa!

(THEY RACE OUT, INTO...)

SCENE 7. CORRIDOR BETA 17, BOTANICAL ZONE [CONTINUOUS]

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Madam? May I be of any assistance?

NYSSA:

Owww...!

THE DOCTOR AND TEGAN EMERGE FROM THE CULTIVATION ROOM

DOCTOR:

Nyssa? What is it?

NYSSA:

Oh, it's nothing. Sorry, I didn't mean to alarm you.

TEGAN:

It didn't sound like nothing.

DOCTOR:

Why are you holding your arm? Have you hurt yourself?

NYSSA:

It was that plant, there - the one with the fronds. Silly of me, really. I leant in for a closer look at that writing on the wall, and it - well, it stabbed me.

TEGAN:

It stabbed you?!

NYSSA:

There was a spine hidden in the flower. I should have been more careful. These are unknown species after all.

TEGAN:

It's very pretty...

NYSSA:

Very. And the way the fronds almost seem to follow you around.. it's quite hypnotic.

DOCTOR:

Part of its evolutionary advantage, no doubt. Here, let me take a look...

NYSSA:

It's just a small puncture mark. The spine didn't penetrate very far.

DOCTOR:

No, but it might have carried any kind of toxin. – Hargreaves, I assume you have medical facilities? Somewhere to clean this up, and check that there's no chance of infection?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Of course, Sir. My medical counterpart can sterilize the wound and make a full examination.

FREYA (GHOST):

(40 YDS DISTANT) (CRYING OUT IN PAIN)

TEGAN:

Listen!

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Shall I direct Miss Nyssa to the Medical Bay?

DOCTOR:

If you would, Hargreaves. I think Tegan and I should try and get to the bottom of these screams.

TEGAN:

Too right we should.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Very well, sir.

NYSSA:

I'll come with you.

TEGAN:

No you won't. You'll go with Jeeves.

DOCTOR:

Like Tegan said, best be on the safe side.

THEY DASH OFF

TEGAN:

(CALLING BACK) And don't touch any more plants!

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

'Jeeves', Miss?

NYSSA:

I think that must be an Earth joke, Hargreaves.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Very good, madam.

THEY HEAD OFF, INTO:

SCENE 8. CORRIDOR BETA 20 [CONTINUOUS]

FADE UP. NYSSA WITH HARGREAVES; HARGREAVES HALTS.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

This is the perimeter of the Botanical Zone, Miss.

NYSSA:

Is it? How can you tell?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

I can only apologise once more for the abundant vegetation in the corridors. I really cannot understand how it got here.

NYSSA:

Well – it grew, presumably. And very fast.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

As you say. Yet I have no memory of it not being here.

NYSSA:

That is strange.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

I offer no excuse – my horticultural skills are evidently lacking. I am at a complete loss to explain why that might be. It really is very odd. –

MEDIC HARGREAVES ROLLS IN – ON WHEELS, RATHER THAN TRACKS

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Ah! And here is my medical colleague.

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

(ARRIVING) Good morning, Miss. If you would like to follow me?

NYSSA:

But – when you say you can't explain it...?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

If you would follow my colleague, he will examine your wound. Good day, Miss Nyssa. (TRUNDLES AWAY)

NYSSA:

What do you mean, 'odd'? Hargreaves? Hargreaves?

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

This way, Miss.

SCENE 9. CORRIDOR BETA 10

FREYA (GHOST):
(CRIES IN PAIN)

RUNNING FOOTSTEPS APPROACH. TEGAN ARRIVES, OUT OF BREATH.

TEGAN:
Anything... Anything here, this time?

DOCTOR:
No. No, just another phantom.

TEGAN:
A phantom?! You've changed your tune!

DOCTOR:
Have I?

TEGAN:
Yeah. When *I* said this place might be haunted you gave me one of your looks.

DOCTOR:
'Phantom' as in 'a phenomenon with no material presence', Tegan – not someone with clanking chains and their head tucked underneath their arm... (BEAT) What do you mean, one of my 'looks'?

TEGAN:
You know. Half pained, half patronising.

DOCTOR:
Do I really do that?

BEAT

TEGAN:
I guess Jeeves was right after all – there is no-one else on the ship.

DOCTOR:
But there's still the matter of the missing crew – which is, after all, why we're here. And if these apparitions aren't somehow connected...

TEGAN:
Yes?

DOCTOR:
Well, it would be an extraordinary coincidence.

SCENE 10. SICK BAY

A SWOOSH OF DOORS; HARGREAVES AND NYSSA ENTER

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

The Aquitaine medical centre. If Miss would take a seat?

NYSSA:

Thank you, Hargreaves. Do you have some water?

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

Certainly, Miss.

DISPENSES SOME WATER

NYSSA:

Thank you. It's so hot in here.

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

The ambient temperature is regulated at 295 Kelvin - the optimum level for the comfort of humans.

NYSSA:

It must be me then. I'm feeling quite... flushed.

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

Now - if Miss would roll up her sleeve, I will prepare a local anaesthetic.

NYSSA:

Of course. (ROLLING BACK SLEEVE) Look - it's swollen.

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

I'm sure it's nothing to worry about, Miss.

NYSSA:

I'm sure you're right.

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

And if Miss *should* go into anaphylactic shock, then I have all necessary treatments available.

NYSSA:

Very reassuring.

THE SHIP VIBRATES SLIGHTLY

NYSSA:

Did you feel that?

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

Miss?

NYSSA:

The whole ship seemed to... tremble.

SCENE 11. CORRIDOR BETA 9

DOCTOR AND TEGAN WALKING ALONG METAL FLOOR.

DOCTOR:

Wait... did you feel that?

TEGAN:

Yes... what was it?

DOCTOR:

I don't know. A vibration. A ripple, even.

TEGAN:

A ripple in what?

DOCTOR:

I wouldn't like to say. Interesting, though.

FREYA (GHOST):

(30 YDS DISTANT) (EERIE SOBBING – CONTINUES UNDER FOLLOWING)

TEGAN:

Interesting?

DOCTOR:

Very. Come on. *Quietly*.

THEY FOLLOW THE SOUND OF THE SOBBING. AFTER A FEW SECONDS THEY TURN A CORNER, AND THE SOBBING STOPS.

TEGAN:

(LOUDLY) Hello?

DOCTOR:

Which part of 'quietly'...?

FOOTSTEPS ECHO FROM DOWN THE CORRIDOR

TEGAN:

Shhhhhhh! – Did you hear that? It sounded like footsteps. From down there, I think.

FREYA (GHOST):

(15 YDS DISTANT) Make it stop. Make it stop. (SOBS)

DOCTOR:

This way.

THEY HURRY TOWARDS THE VOICE

FREYA (GHOST):

Ohhhh... Oh, it hurts. It hurts so much. (SOBS) Make it stop...
Sergei, please.

AS THE DOCTOR AND TEGAN APPROACH, THE SOBBING DIES AWAY

DOCTOR:

Nothing. She's gone.

TEGAN:

Did you hear what she was saying?

DOCTOR:

Yes. Make what stop, I wonder? What happened here?

MORE SOBBING, IN THE FAR DISTANCE.

TEGAN:

There it goes again. You *still* don't think it's a ghost?

DOCTOR:

I don't believe in ghosts. Not the type you mean, anyway.

TEGAN:

What other kinds of ghosts are there?

DOCTOR:

Ghosts are... interference. Projections of things that have
happened, or will happen.

FREYA (GHOST):

(OFF) Maurizio? Maurizio, where are you?

TEGAN:

(GASPS) Look! I saw it this time! All see-through!

DOCTOR:

A young woman, yes.

TEGAN:

Our ghost! Come on!

THE DOCTOR AND TEGAN START RUNNING.

TEGAN:

You think she's one of the missing crew?

DOCTOR:

Judging from her attire, I'd say that's highly likely. I wonder
where she's going?

TEGAN:

Round the corner, quick!

THEY TURN A CORNER, AND HALT.

TEGAN:

Well – where’s she gone? All that’s here is a lift. Do ghosts even take lifts?

FREYA (GHOST):

(BEHIND THEM) Oh no... It’s happening again, isn’t it...?

DOCTOR:

Ah. There she is – behind us, you see?

TEGAN:

But that’s where we came from! She’s playing games with us.

DOCTOR:

I don’t think ghosts play games, either.

TEGAN:

She’d better not be. My feet are killing me.

DOCTOR:

I thought you changed into more sensible shoes?

TEGAN:

I wasn’t expecting to do this much running.

SHIP HARGREAVES:

(ON PA SYSTEM) Doctor, this is Hargreaves.

TEGAN:

Where’s he coming from?

DOCTOR:

Some kind of ship-wide communications system, I presume. – Yes, Hargreaves?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

(ON PA SYSTEM) I’m afraid that there is a... problem with Miss Nyssa.

TEGAN:

What do you mean? What kind of a problem?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

(ON PA SYSTEM) It seems that she has... disappeared.

SCENE 12. SICK BAY

[NB: ANOTHER TIME ZONE.]

BEEP OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

NYSSA:

(COMING TO) Ohhh... my head. What was that? (BEAT) Hargreaves, do you have anything for a headache?

SILENCE

NYSSA:

Hargreaves? (SITS UP AND LOOKS AROUND) Hargreaves – where are you? (TO SELF) He's gone...

SCENE 13. SICK BAY

FADE UP ON BEEP OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

DOCTOR:

When you say Nyssa *disappeared*...

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

My apologies, Sir. That description was imprecise and possibly misleading.

DOCTOR:

So you didn't actually see her vanish into thin air?

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

No, Sir.

DOCTOR:

But you didn't see her leave Sickbay either?

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

That is also true. I turned my back on Miss Nyssa to prepare an analgesic, and when I turned back she had gone.

TEGAN:

So she *could* have just walked out of the room?

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

The reason I do not consider that likely, Miss, is that she was not seen to do so by the cameras in the corridor beyond.

TEGAN:

Oh. That's weird.

DOCTOR:

Do you have a camera in this room?

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

No, Sir – for reasons of clinical ethics. For privacy reasons there are also no cameras in the bedrooms, the washrooms, the water closets, [the]

DOCTOR:

(INTERRUPTING) Of course... (BEAT) Can you scan for life signs?

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

Indeed, Sir. I regret to say that the only life signs on board are those of you and Miss Tegan, in this room.

TEGAN:

Then where is she?

DOCTOR:

I'm quite sure there's a rational explanation.

TEGAN:

I'm not.

DOCTOR:

Maybe Hargreaves' sensors are on the blink? – This ship's seen better days, after all. No offence, Hargreaves.

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

I would take none even if I were able, Sir.

DOCTOR:

Let's retrace our steps. It's a big ship - maybe she got lost on the way back to us...

SCENE 14. CORRIDOR GAMMA 12

NYSSA WALKS BACK TOWARDS THE BOTANICAL GARDENS.

NYSSA:

(SHOUTS) Doctor! Doctor, hello!

BUTLER HARGREAVES TRUNDLES UP BEHIND HER

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

May I help you, Madam?

NYSSA:

Ah! Where did you go?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I'm sorry, I do not understand the question. Go where?

NYSSA:

You were with me one minute, and the next...

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I regret to say that I have never met you before, Madam.

NYSSA:

Not you - the medical droid. I was just with him..

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

As I say, Madam - I have never met you before.

NYSSA:

Now I really have a headache.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Would you like me to fetch the medical droid, Madam?

NYSSA:

No. No, it's fine. And it's Nyssa. My name.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

A pleasure, Miss Nyssa. Would you like some tea?

NYSSA:

No. No, I need to communicate with the botanical gardens. Can you do that?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Of course, Miss Nyssa. The Aquitaine is equipped with an intelligent Intracom system covering the entire ship.

NYSSA:

Intracom?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Indeed. Wherever you are, simply speak your instructions out loud and you will be routed to either myself, or to whomever else you choose.

NYSSA:

Hello? Doctor? Doctor, can you hear me?

A SHORT DELAY, AND THEN:

DOCTOR:

(ON INTERCOM) Nyssa? Where are you?

NYSSA:

Oh – thank goodness. I thought – well, I don't know what I thought. I was all alone.

A SHORT DELAY, AND THEN:

DOCTOR:

(ON INTERCOM) Where are you?

NYSSA:

I'm walking towards the botanical gardens. Corridor... Gamma 12.

A SHORT DELAY, AND THEN:

DOCTOR:

(ON INTERCOM) Stay where you are – we'll come to you.

SCENE 15. CORRIDOR GAMMA 12

FOOTSTEPS UP TO:

TEGAN:

Nyssa? Nyssa! (BEAT) This is where she said she was, all right.

DOCTOR:

Hargreaves, can you show us what that security camera is seeing?

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

Of course, Sir. I will patch its output into my chest display.

ELECTRONIC BEEP AS HE DOES SO

TEGAN:

That's... snazzy.

DOCTOR:

Just us... (BEAT) Nyssa? What are you looking at right now?

A SHORT DELAY, AND THEN:

NYSSA:

(OVER INTERCOM) I'm standing directly under a sign that says 'Gamma 12', facing toward the junction. Where are you?

DOCTOR:

I'm... that's exactly where we are.

TEGAN:

This is weird. Are you sure there aren't two corridor Gamma twelves?

DOCTOR:

(SHARPLY) Both of which lead directly from the medical bay to the botanical gardens?

TEGAN:

I'm worried too, you know?

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

Doctor, I have identified something rather unusual.

DOCTOR:

What's that, Hargreaves?

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

I have recalibrated my sensors and am now picking up a very faint life sign. But the signal is slightly adrift from its location. Like an echo.

TEGAN:

Doctor - when Nyssa speaks, she *sounds* like she's a few seconds out! You know, like when there's a satellite delay on TV...

DOCTOR:

Yes, I was wondering about that...

THE LIGHTS FLICKER AND THE SHIP SHAKES

TEGAN:

Not again!

DOCTOR:

Nyssa, did the lights just flicker where you are?

A SHORT DELAY, AND THEN:

NYSSA:

(OVER INTERCOM) Yes, Doctor. And the ship is shaking...

THE SHAKING BECOMES MORE VIOLENT

DOCTOR:

It's worse this time. More violent... Tegan, hold on to something.

TEGAN:

(SHAKILY) I take back everything I ever said about your driving...

DOCTOR:

Hargreaves, can you detect any external cause for the disturbance?

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

Nothing, Sir; though my sensors - my sensors - my...

A DEEP AND CAVERNOUS CRASH, LIKE A DISTANT THUNDERBOLT HITTING THE SHIP

MEDIC HARGREAVES:

My... my... (BEAT) I have engaged the emergency lighting, Sir.

DOCTOR:

Thank you, Hargreaves. (BEAT) Is there something wrong? Hargreaves?

TEGAN:

Now *his* lights have gone off...

THE SHAKING SUBSIDES

DOCTOR:

I think that's it... (GETS HIS BREATH BACK) Nyssa, are you all right?

SILENCE

DOCTOR:

Nyssa? Nyssa!

SCENE 16. CORRIDOR GAMMA 12

THE SHAKING SUBSIDES

NYSSA:

Doctor? Doctor, are you there...? Doctor!

JUST THE SOUND OF STATIC. HARGREAVES TRUNDLES UP BEHIND

NYSSA:

Hargreaves? The intercom isn't working. Listen.

MORE STATIC

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Intra-ship communications are working fine, Miss.

NYSSA:

Listen! There's nobody there!

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Madam seems distressed. Would one like a cup of tea? I can offer Chai, Chamomile, Earl Grey, English breakfast...

NYSSA:

No. Thank you.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Very well, Miss.

NYSSA:

I don't understand what's happening. It felt as though the ship was being tossed from side to side.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I do not recall.

NYSSA:

But you were here.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I was, Miss. But not with you.

NYSSA:

What?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I regret to say that I have never met you before.

NYSSA:

Hargreaves, you were here, with me. You were.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Alas, Miss – that cannot be true. My data records confirm that you were not here, and then you were.

NYSSA:

But that's impossible.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Nevertheless, it is a fact.

NYSSA:

I was in a corridor, it was covered in vegetation; you were here. And there was writing on the wall, etched into the moss.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Forgive me, Miss – but I would not tolerate vegetable growth in the corridors of the Aquitaine. We have standards.

NYSSA:

But there was.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I assure you, there isn't.

NYSSA:

The corridor was called Gamma 12.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

This *is* Gamma 12. Madam is standing in it.

NYSSA:

But that's impossible.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Quite so, Miss. Are you *sure* you wouldn't like some tea?

NYSSA:

(EXASPERATED SIGH) No. I don't want tea. (ON INTERCOM) *Hello?* Doctor!

CREAK OF METAL DOOR

NYSSA:

What was that?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Madam?

NYSSA:

There's something else in here with us. Listen.

HEAVY BREATHING AND SLOW FOOTSTEPS, AS A FIGURE APPROACHES

NYSSA:

What? Who are you?

(FIGURE ADVANCING)

NYSSA:

What do you want?

(STILL ADVANCING)

NYSSA:

Please...!

END OF EPISODE

PART TWO

(NO REPRISE)

SCENE 17. NARRATION/CORRIDOR GAMMA 12

FX: GENTLE HUM AND BEEPS OF SPACESHIP REBOOTING.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Today I am up with the lark. I water the plants, run the diagnostics, and do the dusting. After breakfast I rotate the ship eight inches to the left, so I can better chart the Caelum constellation. I vacuum the carpets. Luncheon is at one o'clock. At three o'clock I nip outside to clean the windows of the observation deck. Late afternoon I pass by the driving range, and briefly consider a round of golf with Butterworth, the service robot. But Butterworth is very stupid; it would be no contest. Instead I play chess, against myself. I win.

After supper I dim the lights in the empty ship sleeping quarters. At eleven o'clock my motion sensors detect two humanoid lifeforms in corridor Gamma 12. I shimmer over to them, and make my introductions.

CROSS TO CORRIDOR:

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Good evening. My name is Hargreaves. I am the ship's computer. And valet.

TEGAN:

I know. 'Butler' Hargreaves. Nice to see you again.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Welcome to the Aquitaine.

TEGAN:

'Welcome'? What do you [mean] -

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Perhaps Sir and Madam would enjoy a cup of tea? I can offer Chai, Chamomile, Earl Grey, English breakfast...

DOCTOR:

Not right now, thank you Hargreaves.

TEGAN:

Me neither. (SOTTO) What's wrong with him?

DOCTOR:

A technical glitch, perhaps?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

All my systems are functioning at optimum levels.

TEGAN:

Do you know who we are?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

No, Madam.

TEGAN:

Well - I'm Tegan.

DOCTOR:

And I'm the Doctor. How do you do?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Delighted to make your acquaintance.

DOCTOR:

Unfortunately you already have. And that of a good friend of mine, Nyssa. Do you remember her?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

No, Sir. But I would be delighted to make her acquaintance also.

DOCTOR:

And I'd be delighted to introduce you. Unfortunately, she seems to have vanished...

SCENE 18. CORRIDOR

AS BEFORE: HEAVY BREATHING AS A FIGURE WEARING A HEAVY PROTECTIVE SUIT ADVANCES

NYSSA:

(SCARED) Who are you? (BEAT) Won't you at least let me see your face?

AKUNIN:

(RUSSIAN ACCENT) Wait! Please.

HE TAKES OFF HIS HOOD

AKUNIN:

Did I scare you? My apologies.

NYSSA:

Who are you?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

This is Doctor Akunin.

NYSSA:

That's a radiation suit, isn't it?

AKUNIN:

Originally. It offers good protection against all environmental hazards, but as you see, it is very heavy to wear. (CATCHES BREATH) I am exhausted. – It is so good to see you. You are with the rescue party, are you not?

NYSSA:

Rescue...? No! No, I fear I'm in just as much need of rescuing as you.

AKUNIN:

(SUSPICIOUSLY) Then who are you? Why are you on the Aquitaine?

NYSSA:

I'm Nyssa, of Traken. I'm a traveller. I landed on your ship, but I've been split up from my companions.

AKUNIN:

'Companions'? How many companions?

NYSSA:

Just the two. I was talking to them via the intracom; they said they were *here*, in this exact spot. But that's impossible, of course.

AKUNIN:

Of course...

NYSSA:

Then the ship started shaking, and I couldn't hear them anymore. (BEAT) Hargreaves says that I suddenly appeared here, out of nowhere.

AKUNIN:

Impossible also. (RELAXING) I think Hargreaves is not working one hundred per cent, no?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

All my systems are working within normal levels, Doctor.

AKUNIN:

He says! Ha! We shall find your companions, Nyssa Ovtraken.

NYSSA:

Just Nyssa.

AKUNIN:

Where did you last see them?

NYSSA:

In the botanical gardens. But I was stung, so I left them to go to the sick bay.

AKUNIN:

Stung? By what?

NYSSA:

Just a plant. It's nothing.

AKUNIN:

Let me see, please.

SHE ROLLS UP HER SLEEVE

AKUNIN:

Ogo...! [Or-goh: 'wow'] I see, yes. It looks infected.

NYSSA:

It's quite sore.

AKUNIN:

I can help with this, I think. You must come with me – to my laboratory. We do not want the infection to spread, no?

NYSSA:

No. No, I suppose not. And my companions?

AKUNIN:

We will find them, do not worry, *devochka moya*. [deer-voch-kaa
mai-yar: 'My girl'] But first, we must see to you.

SCENE 19. CORRIDOR GAMMA 12

TEGAN ENTERS FROM A SIDE TURNING

TEGAN:

(CALLING) Doctor! I'm back.

DOCTOR:

So I see. No luck, I assume?

TEGAN:

(EXHAUSTED) No. Not a sign of her. (BEAT) Doctor, we've checked everywhere obvious. What's left?

DOCTOR:

The *other* ninety-nine per cent of the ship.

TEGAN:

Well, I suppose we'd better [get on with it] - (SHARPLY) is that a *cup of tea* you're drinking?

DOCTOR:

Er - yes. I got back some time ago, and...

TEGAN:

And?

DOCTOR:

Yours has gone cold, I'm afraid.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Sir, if I might be so bold - there really is little to be gained in searching this entire ship. There are no human life signs aboard, except for those of yourself and Miss Tegan.

TEGAN:

Then what was all that traipsing about for?

DOCTOR:

You know me, Tegan. I prefer the belt and braces approach. By the way, Hargreaves - last time you checked you said you'd picked up a *third* life sign.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Did I, Sir?

DOCTOR:

Yes. Very faint.

TEGAN:

Like an echo, you said.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

How odd. I have no recollection of such a conversation. But either way, the matter is moot. There is no such life sign now. Your friend is gone. As are my crew.

DOCTOR:

Your crew. Quite. Tell me, do you have records of where each crewmember was last seen?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I do. But if Sir is going to suggest checking these locations once more, I can assure you that my crew are still not there.

DOCTOR:

Oh, I'm well aware of that. But if we look more closely we may find some linking factor. A pattern.

COMPUTER PRINTOUT PRODUCED

TEGAN:

What kind of pattern?

DOCTOR:

The kind that I won't recognise until I've found it...

PRINTOUT STOPS

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I have retrieved the data you require, Sir. These are the locations where each member of the crew was last sighted. There are several square miles to cover. The first two, however, are close together.

DOCTOR:

(TAKING PRINTOUT) Captain Maynard, last seen on the observation deck. Lieutenant Savinio, last observed in the dining area...

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Indeed. The other two are some distance away but are both located in the same quadrant of the ship.

TEGAN:

(TAKING PRINTOUTS) Let me see. – Doctor Akunin in the sickbay. And Lieutenant Jennings in the botanical gardens...

DOCTOR:

Ah, really? In which case, we may already have met...

TEGAN:

You mean – Caspar the Friendly Ghost? Brrr! She was spooky.

DOCTOR:

She seemed to be in pain. I wonder why?

TEGAN:

Shall I take those two, then - save us both tramping all over this ship again?

DOCTOR:

If you like, yes.

TEGAN:

You'll have to tell me what I'm looking for.

DOCTOR:

Dimensional flux. Gravitational anomalies, Konishi anomalies. Quantum phenomena. Three dimensional echoes. Four dimensional echoes, actually. Oh, and if we go down that route, time eddies.

TEGAN:

Doctor, I couldn't even say most of those, let alone recognise one.

DOCTOR:

Don't worry, Hargreaves will know what to do.

TEGAN:

Right. (BEAT) Then what will I be doing?

DOCTOR:

Um... taking a note of his answers? Have you got a pen?

TEGAN:

No.

HE PRODUCES A PEN AND A YO-YO FROM HIS POCKET

DOCTOR:

Here. Oh, and take this as well, to check the gravity levels. You divide the time it takes to descend by the time taken to ascend, and that gives you a value you can approximate to earth normal.

TEGAN:

It looks like a yo-yo.

DOCTOR:

It is a yo-yo. Now, good luck. Oh, and it shouldn't need saying again, but - don't touch any plants...

SCENE 20. STAIRS.

AKUNIN AND NYSSA WALK DOWN SOME METAL STAIRS

NYSSA:

Can we stop, please? Just for a minute.

AKUNIN:

It's not much further. My laboratory is down just another level.

NYSSA:

It's so *hot*.

AKUNIN:

I think you have a fever. The infection taking hold.

NYSSA:

You've seen this before?

AKUNIN:

One of my colleagues – Lieutenant Jennings. She too was bitten, and became quite ill. The symptoms – inflammation, rapid fever – the symptoms are the same.

NYSSA:

And what happened to her? The Lieutenant?

AKUNIN:

I gave her the appropriate treatment. She was fine.

NYSSA:

And where is she now?

AKUNIN:

She is here, on this ship. This is a big ship. Perhaps she is with your friends, yes? (BEAT) Nyssa? What's wrong?

NYSSA:

My legs. They feel numb.

AKUNIN:

It will pass. Here, take my arm. Not much further...

SCENE 21. OBSERVATION DECK

DOCTOR:

(FRUSTRATED) *Nothing...*

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I'm sorry, Sir?

DOCTOR:

There's nothing out of the ordinary on the entire observation deck - just as there was nothing out of the ordinary in the dining hall. (BEAT) Well, other than the fact that your counterpart there seems to cook a three-course meal every evening, despite the continued failure of the crew to turn up to eat it.

TEGAN:

(OVER INTERCOM) Doctor?

DOCTOR:

Yes, Tegan?

TEGAN:

(OVER INTERCOM) I'm just coming up to the gardens. And that ghost is here again. I can see her name badge now, it *is* Lieutenant Jennings.

CROSS TO:

SCENE 22. CORRIDOR BETA 15 [CONTINUOUS]

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) Well, that's something. Is anything different?

TEGAN:

Not so far. She's still not making any sense. Still running off round the corner every couple of minutes. It's really creepy.

FREYA (GHOST):

It wants me to die. It's killing me, piece by piece. So it can live...

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) Interesting.

TEGAN:

Oh, and the gravity's normal. I think. Tell the truth, I never was much good with a yo-yo.

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) Well, look out for Hargreaves. The gardening droid should be there to meet you.

TEGAN:

Will do. Tegan out.

BEAT

FREYA (GHOST):

I can feel it. Growing. Growing inside me. — You need to get away from me, Maurizio. Run. (MENACING) But run fast, Maurizio. (CHUCKLES) Run fast!

SCENE 23. INT. OBSERVATION DECK

DOCTOR:

(TO HARGREAVES) These ghosts. When we first met, you said they were just sounds. Voices. But we've actually seen one.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Indeed. I can only assume that my optical receptors do not have the requisite visual acuity to observe these – for want of a better term – *ghosts*.

DOCTOR:

They're your crew, Hargreaves. In some form or another. Tell me – was Jennings unwell? Before her disappearance, I mean?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Not that I recall, Sir.

DOCTOR:

Then why is this echo of her in such pain? What happened to her?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

If I might hazard a guess, Sir – it is possible she was injured during the ergostorm. A bout of turbulence, generally brief but potentially damaging –

DOCTOR:

– often experienced within the ergosphere of a black hole. I know what an ergostorm is, Hargreaves.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Sorry, sir. According to my records the Aquitaine was hit by a particularly acute storm at around the same time Lieutenant Jennings was last seen.

DOCTOR:

Can you check all the system diagnostics that were running when the tremor hit? I want to know if you registered anything out of the ordinary – anything that isn't explained by the physical effects of the storm.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Certainly. May I ask why?

DOCTOR:

Hargreaves – I think you may have cracked it.

SCENE 24. LABORATORY

DOOR SLIDES OPEN. AKUNIN AND NYSSA ENTER

NYSSA:

(FEELING WOOZY) I can't feel my legs. Not at all.

AKUNIN:

The infection is spreading. Here - let me help you onto the (EFFORT) operating table.

NYSSA:

Thank you, Doctor Akunin.

AKUNIN:

Sergei, please. That's it. Now lie back.

NYSSA:

This is your laboratory?

AKUNIN:

Correct.

NYSSA:

But all these plants. I thought you were a doctor?

AKUNIN:

I am - a doctor of plants. A botanist. But I serve as the ship's medic too - with some assistance from Hargreaves. The two disciplines are not so far apart, you know. Roll up your sleeve, please.

NYSSA:

Is that an antidote?

AKUNIN:

It will help with the pain. (INJECTS NYSSA)

NYSSA:

(GASPS) That stings.

AKUNIN:

The sedative will not take long. You should feel it starting to work now.

NYSSA:

(WOOZILY) A little light-headed, yes...

AKUNIN:

It is a high dosage. Soon you will feel nothing.

NYSSA:

(DROWSY) And then... will you give me the antidote?

BEAT

AKUNIN:

What antidote?

NYSSA:

(DROWSY) To the... the infection.

AKUNIN:

You misunderstand me, Nyssa. There is no antidote.

NYSSA:

(DROWSY) No... antidote?

AKUNIN:

All I can do is take the pain away. Hold still, please.

FASTENS HEAVY METAL BONDS AROUND NYSSA'S ARMS AND LEGS

NYSSA:

(DROWSY) What are you... what are you doing?

AKUNIN:

Restraining you. Please, don't struggle. You need to sleep now. Sleep, Nyssa. *Spee, zasypai*. [spee zas-ze-pie: 'Rest, now.']

NYSSA:

(WEAK) Please, no... (FALLS ASLEEP)

AKUNIN:

Then, when you wake up, the pain will be gone.

SCENE 25. OBSERVATION DECK

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

'Cracked it', Sir?

DOCTOR:

The pattern we've been looking for. The Aquitaine was also hit by some kind of disturbance just before Nyssa went missing.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I don't re[call] -

DOCTOR:

I know you don't remember, Hargreaves, but there was a physical tremor through the entire ship. Twice, in fact - the first barely perceptible, the second really rather unpleasant.

(BEEPING)

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Initial analysis is complete, if you would care to examine my frontal display unit.

DOCTOR:

(STUDIES DISPLAY) Ah... that *is* interesting.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Are you referring to the power surge, Sir?

DOCTOR:

I am. But it's not just a power surge.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

No, Sir?

DOCTOR:

Look at that dimensional signature... It's a temporal flicker!

(BEAT) Of course! Hargreaves, this explains everything!

SCENE 26. CORRIDOR BETA FIFTEEN

FREYA (GHOST):

Must... must be something I can do... Something he hasn't thought of... (FADES OFF DOWN THE CORRIDOR)

TEGAN:

Wait, where are you going...? (TO HERSELF) That's not what you did before... (LOUDLY) Doctor?

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) Yes, Tegan?

TEGAN:

She's off. Heading back towards the botanical gardens, I think.

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) Jennings, you mean?

TEGAN:

That's new, isn't it? (WALKING DETERMINEDLY) I'm going after her.

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) Where are you? Hargreaves says he can't see you on his scanners.

TEGAN:

Corridor... Beta Fifteen. It's not as overgrown as that one near the cultivation room. There's some sort of moss growing on the walls. I think it's covered up the cameras.

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) Moss?

TEGAN:

Oh, and on the floor. It's weird. Looks like it's moving.

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) Moving?

TEGAN:

Swaying to and fro, like grass in the wind. Except there isn't any wind.

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) It could be reacting to your presence, then. Be careful...

TEGAN:

Uurgh. It's... sticky.

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) For goodness' sake, Tegan, don't touch it!

TEGAN:

I didn't! I just stood on it. It's sticky underfoot. Like someone's spilt treacle on the floor.

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) I think you should head back here.

TEGAN:

No, I want to see where she's going. Tegan out!

SCENE 27. LABORATORY

STEADY BEEPING OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT. NYSSA WAKES, STRAPPED TO TABLE

NYSSA:

Ohh, my head. (BEAT; REALISATION) I can't move. (PULLS AT STRAPS, TO NO AVAIL) Doctor Akunin? Please, let me out of these straps. (BEAT) Doctor Akunin? Anyone?

NO ANSWER, JUST BEEPING OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

NYSSA:

Hargreaves, are you there?

DISEMBODIED HARGREAVES COMES THROUGH INTRACOM

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Always, madam.

NYSSA:

Hargreaves, can you release these straps?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

No, Miss.

NYSSA:

Can you send one of your droids?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

No, Miss. Doctor Akunin has authority in this area. If he required you to be restrained, I'm sure he had good reason.

NYSSA:

Well, I'll just have to try to break the straps, then. They seem flexible, must be a weak alloy. – (BEGINS STRAINING AT METAL BONDS)

SHIP HARGREAVES:

I'm not sure that is wise, Miss. You may damage the equipment.

METAL BEGINS TO STRAIN, AND THEN BEND.

NYSSA:

That's the idea... Yes! Come on!

METAL TWISTS AND BREAKS. WITH HER FREE ARM **NYSSA:** UNFASTENS THE OTHER BONDS, AND SITS UP, PANTING WITH EXERTION.

NYSSA:

There! – I don't know my own strength. (STEPS DOWN OFF THE BENCH)

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Please, Miss, you should wait for Doctor Akunin.

NYSSA:

Why, where is he now?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Doctor Akunin is currently in access corridor Beta 5.

NYSSA:

And how far away is that?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Ninety-three seconds at average walking speed.

NYSSA:

You mean, he's coming this way? – Hargreaves, I need your help.

SHIP HARGREAVES:

I'm not sure I should, [madam] –

NYSSA:

I'm discharging myself from Doctor Akunin's care. Is that allowed?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

(MISERABLY) It... is, madam.

NYSSA:

Then you can help me, can't you?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

I... suppose so, madam.

NYSSA:

Good!

SCENE 28. OBSERVATION DECK**BUTLER HARGREAVES:**

Doctor, I have the diagnostics you requested for the other three crew members.

DOCTOR:

Excellent. (EXAMINES HARGREAVES' DISPLAY) Now, let's see... There, that's a definite temporal flicker when Lieutenant Savinio was enjoying his last meal in the dining room... And again when Doctor Akunin disappeared from the sickbay... And once again, right here on the observation deck when Captain Maynard vanished. (BEAT) You see, Hargreaves? It's not where they are, but *when*. Your crew has been lost in time.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I am at a loss to explain how I did not draw the same conclusion.

DOCTOR:

Hargreaves... have you ever wondered why you're never able to keep on top of your to-do list?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Constantly, Sir. In fact, it becomes more of a mystery as the days go on.

DOCTOR:

You do realise that you've been *rebooting* every time one of these ergostorms hits the ship?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Rebooting, Sir?

DOCTOR:

Yes. The power surge trips your circuits and to avoid damage, the ship - not to put too fine a point on it - switches you off and switches you on again.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

That sounds most irregular, Sir. And surely I would rem[ember]... Oh. I see.

DOCTOR:

(SOFTLY) It's all here, I'm afraid. Every time the storm hits, you return to your last system restore point and start all over again. It's why you don't remember us. And why nothing ever seems to get done.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

But my last system restore point was only seven days ago.

DOCTOR:

No, I think it was longer ago than that. – Look around you. The rapid growth of those plants in the cultivation lab? Perhaps it wasn't so rapid after all. And all the dust... Rather more than seven days' worth, no matter how far behind you've got with the chores. If you'd just give me access to your control panel... Thank you.

TAPS AWAY AT HARGREAVES' CONTROL PANEL

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Doctor, I feel rather anxious.

DOCTOR:

It'll pass. You just need to – (STOPS) Ah. That *is* a long time.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Sir?

DOCTOR:

I've adjusted your system clock to show how much time has actually passed. Simple, really – there's a record of each shutdown and a record of each reboot, so you just need to total them all up.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Doctor? How long has it been?

DOCTOR:

It seems the Aquitaine has been circling this black hole for slightly over fifty years...

SCENE 29. DELETED

SCENE 30. BOTANICAL GARDENS

TROPICAL RAINFOREST SOUNDS. FOOTSTEPS THROUGH UNDERGROWTH.

FREYA (GHOST):

(OFF) It's burning... burning inside!

TEGAN:

(STOPPING, TO SELF) Who are you talking to? Is there someone else there? (ALoud) Jennings? If you can hear me...

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) Did you say something, Tegan?

TEGAN:

Crikey, Doc! You made me jump. I was just talking to the ghost. We're back in the botanical gardens – near the TARDIS, I can see it from here.

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) You're still following her?

TEGAN:

She's getting ahead of me now. I can't keep up – this mossy stuff keeps sticking to my shoes.

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) Tegan, you might as well come back. I think I know what's happened to [Nyssa].

TEGAN:

(STICKING IN MUD, NEARLY FALLING OVER) Rabbits!

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) What now?

TEGAN:

I nearly fell over. My shoe's stuck fast.

TEGAN PULLS AT HER FOOT. THE MOSS REACTS BY STICKING FASTER TO HER SHOE

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) I did tell you to be careful!

STICKY SOUNDS AS THE MOSS STARTS TO GROW PERCEPTIBLY

TEGAN:

(WORRIED) Doctor? Doctor! This is weird!

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) What's weird?

TEGAN:

I think this moss is growing... (MORE SOUNDS OF MOSS TENDRILS
EXTENDING) It is! When I try and pull my foot away, it grows a
little bit more!

CROSS TO:

SCENE 31. OBSERVATION DECK [CONTINUOUS]

DOCTOR:

Tegan, don't move!

TEGAN:

(OVER INTERCOM) How will I get free if I don't move?

DOCTOR:

The moss wants you to move! The more you struggle, the more it will tighten its grip - like quicksand.

TEGAN:

(OVER INTERCOM) Right. Okay, yeah, I understand. Don't move.

DOCTOR:

(SOTTO) Hargreaves, this is urgent. The way that moss is behaving, it's clearly hostile to animal life.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Hostile, Sir?

DOCTOR:

Worst case, carnivorous. If Tegan loses her balance...

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I understand.

DOCTOR:

Can you send a droid to help free her?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I'm afraid that will not be possible. The growth in question has proven inimical to my counterpart's drive systems.

DOCTOR:

Then I'll have to go myself. Is there a clear route to the gardens?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Via corridor Beta Seventeen - yes, Sir.

DOCTOR:

Excellent. (LOUDLY) Tegan? Don't panic. I'm coming..

SCENE 32. PLANT NURSERY

DOOR SWOOSHES OPEN; NYSSA RUNS IN.

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) Hargreaves? Where am I now?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

(SOTTO) Plant Nursery Seven-A, Miss. (BEAT) Perhaps you would care to know that Dr Akunin has pursued you from his laboratory, and is heading your way?

NYSSA:

What? (SOTTO) Hargreaves, there's nowhere to hide!

SHIP HARGREAVES:

(SOTTO) The low-level lighting is designed for the growth of non-photosynthetic algae, Miss. I calculate that you would stand least chance of detection behind the culture tank to your right.

WE FOLLOW HER AS SHE HIDES IN A CORNER, BREATHING HARD. THE DOOR OPENS AGAIN AND AKUNIN ENTERS, CAUTIOUSLY. HE ADDRESSES THE APPARENTLY EMPTY ROOM.

AKUNIN:

Hargreaves will not tell me where you are, Nyssa. Patient confidentiality, he says. Patient confidentiality! (CHUCKLES) Very good.

WALKS CLOSER

AKUNIN:

But it doesn't matter, of course. You really think you can hide from me? I know every inch of this vessel. From the observation deck to the engine room, every last inch. I've had a long time to learn it.

BEAT

AKUNIN:

But let's suppose I do not find you, Nyssa, what then? You see, the minute you touched that plant, your fate was sealed. You cannot run from what is going to happen to you. You cannot hide from it. I am the only person who can help.

HE WANDERS AWAY, STILL TALKING

AKUNIN:

I have seen the infection take hold. You will endure the most terrible suffering, Nyssa. The pain will be unbearable, beyond imagining. I know, Nyssa — I've seen it.

HE RETURNS, AND WALKS EVER CLOSER TO NYSSA'S HIDING PLACE. WE HEAR HER SHALLOW BREATHING.

AKUNIN:

Spare yourself. I can help you. You'll go to sleep, you'll know nothing of it. Come out. Show yourself. Come to me, Nyssa. *Ot sood'bee ne ooi-dyosh* [art sood-bee nee wee-deeyosh] – 'You cannot escape your fate.'

WITH A CLATTER OF OVERTURNED MACHINERY, NYSSA DARTS FROM HER HIDING PLACE.

NYSSA:

(DESPERATELY) Hargreaves, the door!

AKUNIN:

Ah, there you are! – Come back!

DOOR SWOOSHES SHUT.

SCENE 33. BOTANICAL GARDENS

TROPICAL RAINFOREST.

TEGAN:

Doctor? Doctor, the moss is growing... fast. It's over my ankle now. I'm trying to keep still, but it's not easy. (SOUND OF MOSS SUCKING AT HER LEG) Doctor, I can feel it sucking at me... like some kind of leech!

A RUSTLING IN THE BUSHES, SOME WAY OFF

TEGAN:

Who's that? Is there someone there?

MORE RUSTLING, AS IF A FIGURE IS SLOWLY AND UNSURELY MOVING THROUGH THE UNDERGROWTH

TEGAN:

Nyssa? Is that you?

MORE RUSTLING — PERCEPTIBLY CLOSER

TEGAN:

Doctor? Hargreaves?

PLANT CREATURE:

(UNPLEASANT RASPING EXHALATION, ACCOMPANIED BY THE STRANGE CHATTERING SOUND OF ITS MANY FACIAL TENDRILS)

TEGAN:

Look, who is that? Why won't you answer me?

PLANT CREATURE:

(RASPING/CHATTERING BREATH)

THE CREATURE TAKES ANOTHER STEP THROUGH THE UNDERGROWTH

TEGAN:

(SHOUTS) Doctor! Doctor, can you hear me?

BEAT

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) (BREATHLESS) Yes, Tegan?

TEGAN:

(NORMALLY) There's someone here...

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) What do you mean, someone?

TEGAN:

In the botanical gardens. There's someone here. Or *something*.

DOCTOR:

Something?

TEGAN:

It doesn't... it doesn't sound human.

SCENE 34. OBSERVATION DECK

NYSSA RUNS DOWN A CORRIDOR AND REACHES A DOOR ADJACENT TO A LARGE WINDOW.

NYSSA:

(BREATHLESS) Where am I now?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

The forward observation deck, Miss. Offering one of the finest aspects in the entire ship.

NYSSA:

Never mind the view, Hargreaves - does this door open?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Unfortunately, Miss, that is the entrance to the upper airlock.

NYSSA:

What...?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

You are at the furthest extremity of the ship. There is nowhere to go but back. I'm sorry.

NYSSA:

(BANGS ON THE DOOR IN FRUSTRATION)

AKUNIN:

(APPROACHING FROM OFF) Ah, there you are. Admiring the view? Beautiful, isn't it?

NYSSA:

Please. Keep away.

AKUNIN:

The Caelum constellation. I was twenty-seven when I first saw it. A long time ago now.

NYSSA:

I'm a scientist. I can find an antidote.

DISTANT RUMBLE AND CREAK OF METAL

AKUNIN:

You have my sympathies, Nyssa, you really do. But as a scientist, you can see that there is only one logical course of action. Come with me.

NYSSA:

No...

AKUNIN:

There's nowhere to run, Nyssa.

SHIP BEGINS TO VIOLENTLY SHAKE.

AKUNIN:

(REALISATION DAWNING) No! Not now! *Ne seichas! Niet!* [nee see-chas! nee-et: Not now! No!]

SCENE 35. CORRIDOR BETA SEVENTEEN/BOTANICAL GARDENS

DOCTOR RUNNING THROUGH UNDERGROWTH

TEGAN:

(OVER INTERCOM) Doctor, please hurry.

DOCTOR:

I'll be with you any moment now - had to take the scenic route, or else we'd both be stuck. Are you still near the TARDIS?

TEGAN:

(OVER INTERCOM) Of course I am! Where do you think I've gone?

DOCTOR:

Sorry. This... creature. Can it see you?

CROSS TO GARDENS.

TEGAN:

(QUIETLY) I don't know. I don't think so.

DOCTOR:

(OVER INTERCOM) What was that? Tegan, I can't hear you.

TEGAN:

(QUIETLY) It only moves when I speak. Doctor, I think it's *hunting* me...

CROSS BACK TO CORRIDOR.

DOCTOR:

Just try to stay calm. And keep your balance!

SHIP BEGINS TO VIOLENTLY SHAKE.

DOCTOR:

Oh no...

TEGAN:

(OVER INTERCOM) Doctor? The ship's shaking again!

DOCTOR:

Yes, here too. Hargreaves?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

(OVER INTERCOM) Yes, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

What do your scanners say? Is this another ergostorm?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

(OVER INTERCOM) I believe so, Doctor. My diagnostic functions
[are -]

AS BEFORE, DEEP AND CAVERNOUS CRASH – LIKE A DISTANT
THUNDERBOLT – AS THE TIME STORM HITS THE SHIP

SHIP HARGREAVES:

(OVER INTERCOM) Are... are... are...

DOCTOR:

Hargreaves? Oh, not again!

DOCTOR: STUMBLES ON THROUGH DOORWAY, INTO:

SCENE 36. BOTANICAL GARDENS [CONTINUOUS]

DOCTOR:

(BREATHLESS) Tegan, I'm here. Where are you? Are you safe?

SHAKING SUBSIDES.

DOCTOR:

I think we're through the worst of it. (BEAT) Tegan, are you there? (BEAT) Tegan?!

SILENCE

DOCTOR:

The TARDIS. Where did I leave the TARDIS?

HE STUMBLES ON THROUGH THE UNDERGROWTH

DOCTOR:

Ah yes! Underneath that rather attractive Oeno- (STOPS DEAD) ...carpus. (REALISATION) Oh no. (ALOUD) Hargreaves? Is it my imagination, or is there a rather large hole where the patch of forest containing my TARDIS used to be? (BEAT) Hargreaves?

SCENE 37. OBSERVATION DECK

SHAKING SUBSIDES. AKUNIN HAS VANISHED.

NYSSA:

Doctor Akunin? (TO SELF) Where did he go? (CALLING) Hargreaves? Hargreaves!

SILENCE. WE HEAR THE SHIP SYSTEMS REBOOTING AND WARMING UP.

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Good evening, madam.

NYSSA:

Nyssa. It's Nyssa.

SHIP HARGREAVES:

My apologies. Would 'Miss Nyssa' care for a cup of tea?

NYSSA:

(DISTRACTED) Tea?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

I have Chai, Chamomile, Earl Grey, English...

NYSSA:

Where did he go?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Where did who go, madam?

NYSSA:

Doctor Akunin. He was here a minute ago.

SHIP HARGREAVES:

He was not, madam. And neither, for that matter, were you.

NYSSA:

(IRRITATED, UNDER BREATH) Or maybe you just have a very short memory. (NORMAL) Tell me Hargreaves, have we met before?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

No, madam.

NYSSA:

Have you met my companions? The Doctor – not Akunin, a different Doctor. My Doctor. And Tegan.

SHIP HARGREAVES:

No, madam.

NYSSA:

Are there any other life signs on board this vessel?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Yes, madam.

NYSSA:

Yes? Who?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Captain Maynard, the commander of the Aquitaine.

NYSSA:

Can I speak to the Captain?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

That may be difficult, Miss. Captain Maynard is sleeping, and must not be disturbed.

SCENE 38. CORRIDOR

WE HEAR THE SHIP SYSTEMS REBOOTING AND WARMING UP. BUTLER HARGREAVES AND DOCTOR MEET IN A CORRIDOR, STOPPING SIMULTANEOUSLY.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Good evening, sir.

DOCTOR:

Ah, Hargreaves. And then there were two.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

And how is sir today?

DOCTOR:

I've had better. I seem to have mislaid both of my companions. Not to mention my ship. It's really rather worrying.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I'm sorry to hear that, sir. Perhaps one would like some tea? I have Chai, Chamomile...

DOCTOR:

English breakfast. Thank you, Hargreaves.

HARGREAVES BEGINS BREWING SOME TEA IN HIS CHEST CAVITY

DOCTOR:

I find tea helps me think, you see. (BEAT) You don't remember me, do you Hargreaves?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Remember you, sir?

DOCTOR:

Remember meeting me. Before.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I've never met you before, sir. Your tea.

DOCTOR:

(TAKES TEA) Thank you. – You've rebooted, Hargreaves. Every time there's a disturbance you reboot, hence you not remembering anything. I've already told you this, by the way.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I'm afraid I don't recall.

DOCTOR:

(SIPS TEA) Excellent tea. – But there's a bigger problem, alas.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Oh dear me.

DOCTOR:

I think the disturbances – ergostorms, you call them – are becoming more frequent. This time it was fifty minutes between storms; the time before I measured it as fifty-six. Do you know what that means?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Does it mean something bad, sir?

DOCTOR:

Black holes warp time and space, you see? Now, sitting up here safely in the ergosphere, we shouldn't be affected by any of that. Unfortunately, I think that black hole out there is collapsing.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Goodness.

DOCTOR:

Collapsing, and pulling this ship slowly towards it, sucking it closer inch by inch. Every time we're pulled closer to the event horizon, the time distortion effect becomes worse, hence the more-frequent time storms.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Oh dear, Sir. That does sound alarming.

DOCTOR:

According to my calculations, the next time storm will be in 43 minutes. And at that rate of increase the Aquitaine, and everyone aboard, will be destroyed in a little over... two hours.

END OF EPISODE

PART THREE

(NO REPRISE)

SCENE 39. BOTANICAL GARDENS

TEGAN:

(QUIETLY) Hargreaves? Hargreaves, are you there?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

(OVER INTERCOM) Yes, Miss?

TEGAN:

(QUIETLY) Thank goodness! Hargreaves, there was something here just now. Some sort of creature – I thought it was stalking me. Is it – is it still here?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

There are no lifeforms present other than yourself, Miss.

TEGAN:

Weird. Oh well, one thing at a time - I still need to get free of this man-eating moss before I lose more than just my shoes. (SIGHS) Where's the Doctor? He said he was nearly here.

SHIP HARGREAVES:

I'm not sure to whom you are referring, Miss. Are you requiring Doctor Akunin? If so, I am afraid I am unable to help.

TEGAN:

Doctor who? No, I want the Doctor. He's probably got lost. Can you tell him I'm near the [TARDIS] - (BEAT) Hang on, what's happened to the TARDIS?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

'TARDIS', Miss?

TEGAN:

It was there a minute ago, and now it isn't. Great. I'll probably get the blame for that as well...

SCENE 40. CRYOGENIC CHAMBERS

SWISH OF DOOR OPENING. CHILLY HUM OF CRYOSLEEP CHAMBERS.

NYSSA:

(WALKING IN) Captain Maynard's in here?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

That's correct, madam. The sleeping quarters. As I said, Madam, the Captain must not be disturbed!

NYSSA:

It's cold... (BEAT) Hold on - these are cryogenic chambers!

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Yes, Miss. The crew were originally placed in suspended animation for the duration of the voyage to the Caelum constellation. But Captain Maynard was put back into cryosleep more recently, after she fell ill.

NYSSA:

Under whose advice?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Doctor Akunin. When the Captain became incapacitated, he became ranking officer.

NYSSA:

But Akunin isn't here, is he? He vanished, earlier. (AN IDEA) Which makes me ranking officer.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Madam?

NYSSA:

Your function is to serve the humans aboard the Aquitaine, correct? So if I am the only humanoid being on board, then I must be the ranking officer.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

(WHIRRS, COGITATES, THEN:) Yes, madam.

NYSSA:

Good. Then I order you to wake Captain Maynard.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Certainly, madam. (TRUNDLES OVER TO SLEEPING POD) Captain Maynard is in sleeping bay two. (STOPS) Initiating waking sequence... now.

FEW ELECTRONIC BEEPS. SLOW DECOMPRESSION.

SCENE 41. CREW ROOM

DOOR OPENS. BUTLER HARGREAVES ENTERS. BEAT.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

(COUGHS POLITELY) A-hem.

DOCTOR:

(PREOCCUPIED) Ah. Hargreaves. Do you have the data from the recent storm?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

As requested - spectrographic measurements of life-signs within the botanical gardens, in the moments before and after the storm struck. You will observe that there are two readings, one of which is human.

DOCTOR:

Excellent. - Which of these lines is Tegan?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

The spiky one.

DOCTOR:

That would be right... So the other is presumably the unidentified life-form that she reported. (SHORT BEAT) It barely registers by comparison. Too little brain activity to be an animal, surely? But too much to be purely plantlife...

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Curious indeed.

DOCTOR:

Hargreaves, what happens to Tegan's line here? It looks like a double-image.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

It is, Sir. Precisely the same readings, but offset by a couple of seconds.

DOCTOR:

Almost as if Tegan was briefly in two places at once...

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Does that suggest something to you?

DOCTOR:

When my other friend Nyssa was caught up in the first minor disturbance, there was a few seconds' delay when she spoke to us. Almost as if she'd only travelled a few seconds back in time. And yet she must have been further removed than that.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

How can you be sure?

DOCTOR:

We were sharing the same spatial co-ordinates. Would have been a bit messy if we'd been in the same time zone as well.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

How bizarre! It must have been very confusing for you all.

DOCTOR:

It was... Ah! Of course! If Nyssa had merely jumped a time-track, Delahay's inverse cube law comes into play!

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I'm not familiar with that maxim, Sir.

DOCTOR:

Time-tracks are to Time what parallel dimensions are to Space-Time. They run side by side, like the grooves on a record.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

A record?

DOCTOR:

Yes, a record. Travel along the grooves, and time progresses, or regresses, in a linear fashion. *Skip* a groove, and the distance you travel increases exponentially.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Or decreases.

DOCTOR:

Or decreases, exactly. So if this double image shows Tegan two point six seconds back in time, in reality she would be... (BEAT) just over three hours away.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Well! That is good news. Although... if Miss Tegan was sent three hours into the past, shouldn't she be here now? Three hours older than ourselves, but otherwise unaffected by her travails?

DOCTOR:

Yes, Hargreaves, she should. Unless...

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Unless Miss Tegan is dead, Sir?

DOCTOR:

Hargreaves, I need to get to her.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

You want... to follow her back in time?

DOCTOR:

It's the only way out of this. Save Tegan, recover the TARDIS, and find a way to rescue Nyssa. Maybe even your crew.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I understand. But Doctor – how can you do such a thing?

DOCTOR:

I need to test a theory...

SCENE 42. BOTANICAL GARDENS

TEGAN:

(CALLING AROUND, HALF-HEARTEDLY) Doctor...? (BEAT) Doctor...?

SAVINIO:

(FROM OFF) Hello? Is there someone there?

TEGAN:

(STARTLED) What the...? (UNCERTAINLY) Hello?

UNDERGROWTH PARTED.

SAVINIO:

(STEPPING THROUGH) Found you. My God. Who are you?

TEGAN:

Well, who are *you*? – Hey, was that you creeping around here earlier? I thought something was hunting me.

SAVINIO:

Hunting you?! (BEAT) I've only just got here. I saw you on the security monitors. I couldn't believe my eyes. It's been so long.

TEGAN:

What's been so long? Look, could you help me get free from this stuff?

SAVINIO:

You're stuck?

TEGAN:

Well, I'm not just standing like this to improve my posture. (BEAT) Yes. Sorry. I'm stuck. It's this weird moss stuff. There's a trowel thing over there, but I've not been able to reach it.

SAVINIO:

Ah, one of Hargreaves' attachments. (FETCHES IT) Here, let me see if I can scrape off the moss.

TEGAN:

Thank you.

SAVINIO BEGINS SCRAPING MOSS FROM AROUND TEGAN'S FEET.
(CONTINUES UNDER:)

SAVINIO:

There are some very nasty specimens in the gardens – it's not a good idea to come here without protective clothing.

TEGAN:

I'll have you know, these are my sensible shoes...!

SAVINIO:

You're from the future, yes?

TEGAN:

The future?

SAVINIO:

Well, it was one of the time storms brought you here. And you're not one of the crew, that's for sure! So who are you? Part of a rescue party?

TEGAN:

I suppose so. We answered your distress signal. Sorry, did you say *time* storm?

SAVINIO:

You didn't know?

TEGAN:

Afraid not. Er, we've not been debriefed yet.

SAVINIO:

The first storm hit the Aquitaine about six months after we arrived. It took Doctor Akunin – not that we understood that at the time. We carried on as best we could. Then another storm took Captain Maynard. That left just myself and Freya... Lieutenant Jennings.

TEGAN:

Jennings?

HE STOPS SCRAPING

SAVINIO:

You know of her?

TEGAN:

Kind of. A little...

SAVINIO:

We stayed together after that. Became... inseparable. Even after the first time storm caught us. And the next. And the next. That was the only good thing about this nightmare... (BEAT) And then... and then I lost her.

TEGAN:

I'm sorry.

SAVINIO:

That was several years ago now. Who knows how many years had already passed by then.

TEGAN:

You've been on your own all that time?

SAVINIO:

I found a safe place. A place on the ship that doesn't seem as affected by the storms – through trial and error, you know? – and I've stuck to it. Until today... (BEAT) Move your foot. There, you're free!

TEGAN:

Thank you. (BEAT) I don't even know your name.

SAVINIO:

Savinio. Lieutenant Maurizio Savinio.

SCENE 43. CRYOGENIC CHAMBERS

TEA POURED. A WHIRR AS HARGREAVES EXTENDS HIS ARM TO OFFER IT TO MAYNARD.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:
Your tea, Captain.

MAYNARD:
(GROGGILY) Thank you, Hargreaves. (SIPS TEA; TO NYSSA) Tell me again why you're on my ship – Nyssa, you said?

NYSSA:
We were responding to *your* distress beacon, Captain.

MAYNARD:
Is this true, Hargreaves?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:
I have no record of it, ma'am. Miss Nyssa appeared on the observation deck thirty-three minutes ago.

NYSSA:
(SIGHS) I told you – I'm a traveller. I landed on the Aquitaine several *hours* ago – not minutes – and since then I've lost my travelling companions, been tossed about in some sort of interstellar storm, and been offered tea by Hargreaves with depressing regularity. He seems to keep losing his memory.

MAYNARD:
That much is true.

NYSSA:
Oh, and I'd like to have a few words about your Doctor Akunin too.

MAYNARD:
What of him? Where is he?

NYSSA:
Gone, disappeared. Thank goodness. He's lost his mind.

MAYNARD:
Lost his mind? Doctor Akunin is one of the finest young minds I've ever met.

NYSSA:
Young? He's older than you.

MAYNARD:
Then you have the wrong man. I have every faith in Sergei Akunin.

NYSSA:

But he put you in suspended animation!

MAYNARD:

To save my life. Without Dr Akunin I would most likely be dead.

NYSSA:

He tried to kill me!

MAYNARD:

We only have your word for that. Akunin isn't here to speak for himself, and Hargreaves has no record of you even being here.

NYSSA:

But it's true.

MAYNARD:

You're from Henriksen, aren't you?

NYSSA:

Who?

MAYNARD:

Henriksen Biotech.

NYSSA:

I've never heard of 'Henriksen Biotech'. I've told you the truth.

MAYNARD:

That's as maybe. But while we establish just who you are and what happened to Doctor Akunin, you're to be taken into custody.

NYSSA:

You're not serious.

MAYNARD:

Hargreaves - handcuff this woman.

WHIRR AS HARGREAVES PRODUCES HANDCUFFS

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Yes, ma'am.

NYSSA:

For goodness' sake...!

SCENE 44. CORRIDOR GAMMA 12

DOCTOR AND HARGREAVES HURRY ALONG.

DOCTOR:

You see, Hargreaves, if I'm right there'll be fractures, hairline cracks in the... (TRAILS OFF AS HE STOPS) Look – more of that writing on the wall.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I do apologise, Sir. I shall rectify the situation immediately.

DOCTOR:

Wait, just a minute. (BRUSHES ASIDE VEGETATION) What does that say?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

S-L-E... A-Y... E-

DOCTOR:

I think that's an F.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I believe you're right, Sir. F-I-E.

DOCTOR:

S-L-E... A-Y... F-I-E. Does that mean anything to you?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I speak nearly six thousand languages fluently, and I'm afraid in not one of them does that pattern signify anything meaningful.

DOCTOR:

Even so, someone is clearly trying to tell us something..

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Your companion, perhaps? Miss Tegan? She disappeared not far from here.

DOCTOR:

Hmm. Can you show me a schematic of the Aquitaine?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Certainly, sir. Will a hologrammatic projection suffice?

DOCTOR:

That'd be splendid.

ELECTRONIC BUZZ AS A HOLOGRAM APPEARS

DOCTOR:

Now, show me where the crewmembers disappeared...

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Captain Maynard and Doctor Akunin disappeared here (ELECTRONIC BEEP), on the observation deck; Lieutenant Savinio here (BEEP), in the dining room; and Lieutenant Jennings here (BEEP), in the botanical gardens.

DOCTOR:

Nyssa also vanished on the observation deck, and Tegan in the gardens. And we last spoke to Nyssa in this corridor, which links the two. It's staring us in the face, Hargreaves.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

What is, Sir?

DOCTOR:

Can you overlay each deck on top of one another? That's it. A diagonal line.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

The first disappearance was on the lower deck, closest to the black hole, and the subsequent ones on the decks above.

DOCTOR:

Almost like a lightning strike, reaching further each time. You see? A fracture!

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Sir?

DOCTOR:

A line where time is breaking through. Certain places on this ship are more susceptible [to -]

A RUSTLING IN THE BUSHES

DOCTOR:

Hello?

MORE RUSTLING

DOCTOR:

Hello, who's there? (BEAT) It's all right. You can come out. I mean you no harm.

AKUNIN EMERGES, CONFUSED AND DISORIENTATED

AKUNIN:

M-Maurizio? *Eto ti?* [etta tee?] Is that you? – I'm sorry, Maurizio. I didn't have a choice. There was nothing I could do for her.

DOCTOR:

Maurizio? Look, I'm not who you think I am. I'm the Doctor.

AKUNIN:

Who?

DOCTOR:

Pleased to meet you.

SCENE 45. CORRIDOR BETA FIFTEEN

TEGAN AND SAVINIO WALKING

TEGAN:

So what happened to your friend - Jennings? I mean, if you and her were sticking together so closely, how come you got separated?

SAVINIO:

She was... unwell. An infection. Something that Hargreaves could not cure. Perhaps if Doctor Akunin had been there, things would have been different, but...

TEGAN:

What kind of infection?

SAVINIO:

Something she picked up in the botanical gardens. From one of the plants.

TEGAN:

One of the plants. (WORRIED) Right.

SAVINIO:

It was a very strange time. After the initial fever, all seemed well again. Better, in fact. She seemed stronger, physically stronger.

TEGAN:

That doesn't sound so bad.

SAVINIO:

It didn't last. Eventually this stage was followed by... actual mutation. It was not good.

TEGAN:

Mutation...?

SAVINIO:

I could care for her no longer. Eventually there was nothing of her to care *for*. I was in fear of my life. I fled. I don't know where she is now.

TEGAN:

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have asked.

SAVINIO:

It was a long time ago.

TEGAN:

It's not that – it's just... the same thing happened to a friend of mine.

SAVINIO:

Here on the Aquitaine?

TEGAN:

Before we were split up by these time storms. (BEAT) I was already worried sick I might not see her again. And now... now I don't know if she'll even be herself if I do...

SCENE 46. CORRIDOR GAMMA 12

DOCTOR:

How are you feeling now?

AKUNIN:

I'm sorry, Doctor. My head – it gets worse every time. It's the disturbances. They are... disorientating.

DOCTOR:

Yes. Time-travel is, rather.

AKUNIN:

You too have travelled?

DOCTOR:

Well – yes. I'm something of an authority, as it goes. How long has this been going on for?

AKUNIN:

It's difficult to say. (CHUCKLES) Difficult – ha! *Slovami ne opeesat* [slo-vami nee opee-sat], we say in Russian – 'No words can describe.' Sometimes you stay in one time for months, or a year. Sometimes you stay for a few days. Sometimes it can be minutes. How can you keep track of time? How can you?

DOCTOR:

I don't know.

AKUNIN:

It's been a long while, I know that much. Such a long while. I was twenty-seven when it started – how old do I look now? Forty? Fifty?

DOCTOR:

And you've been alone, all the time?

AKUNIN:

No, not always. Our paths have crossed, from... time to time. But they're always taken from me in the end.

DOCTOR:

I've lost my companions, you see. A loud Australian and a young lady about so high, brown curly hair.

AKUNIN:

Nyssa Ovtraken?

DOCTOR:

Yes! Yes, that's her. You've seen her?

AKUNIN:

Yes, but...

DOCTOR:

But?

AKUNIN:

She was infected. I'm sorry, Doctor. By now Nyssa Ovtraken must be dead.

SCENE 47. CORRIDOR

NYSSA, BUTLER HARGREAVES AND MAYNARD MOVING ALONG

MAYNARD:

The company warned us about you.

NYSSA:

You've got this all wrong.

MAYNARD:

Industrial spies. Saboteurs. The biotechnology field is ruthless, they said. The next miracle cure or bio-weapon is worth a lot of money. But I didn't think even Henriksen would venture out this [far] – (WINCES) Oooh.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Are you in pain, Captain?

MAYNARD:

Just my leg. Pins and needles. That's cryosleep for you...

SHE STOPS WALKING

MAYNARD:

Right. This is it – Akunin's laboratory.

BEEP OF BUTTON AND DOOR RELEASES WITH A HISS. INTO:

SCENE 48. AKUNIN'S LAB [CONTINUOUS]

MAYNARD, BUTLER HARGREAVES AND NYSSA ENTER.

MAYNARD:

What a *mess*. What happened here?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

I do apologise, ma'am. I can't understand it.

MAYNARD:

And you say you broke free and escaped?

NYSSA:

Yes – from that table, there.

MAYNARD WALKS OVER TO TABLE

MAYNARD:

These restraints are bent out of shape. You say you did this?

NYSSA:

I... well, yes.

MAYNARD:

These are Tritanium. That's impossible.

NYSSA:

It's not. It happened. Maybe Akunin injected me with something that made me strong. I don't know.

MAYNARD:

Well, I think we can rule out that possibility, otherwise you'd be out of those cuffs by now.

NYSSA:

No. It's just I wanted to see if I could reason with you first. But since it seems not... (STRAINS WITH EFFORT TO PULL THE CUFFS APART)

MAYNARD:

What the... they're coming apart!

NYSSA:

(FINAL EFFORT) Urghh!

CUFFS FALL NOISILY TO THE FLOOR.

NYSSA:

Don't look so worried, I'm not going to harm you.

MAYNARD:

Are you – are you an Enhanced? Henriksen were working in that field, and they'd love to get a look at [our -]

NYSSA:

(INTERRUPTING) Captain, I'm not working for your competitors. I'm here to help. (LOOKING AROUND) What was Akunin working on here?

MAYNARD:

Lieutenant Jennings was infected by the plant, then myself. Akunin was looking for a cure.

NYSSA:

I don't understand. You'd expect there to be incubators, plate readers, microscopes. But these look more like propagators, for plants. Why would Akunin be growing plants?

MAYNARD:

Cuttings from the plant that attacked us, I presume.

NYSSA:

It doesn't make sense. I think he's been working on something [else-] (BREAKS OFF; SURPRISE) Oh!

MAYNARD:

What is it?

NYSSA:

In that jar. That's certainly not a plant.

MAYNARD:

It's... a hand. A human hand.

NYSSA:

And look what's written on the label.

MAYNARD:

'Jennings.' No... No, it can't be.

NYSSA:

Now do you believe me?

SCENE 49. BOTANICAL GARDENS

TROPICAL ATMOS. PUSHING THROUGH UNDERGROWTH.

AKUNIN:

Nichego sebe! [nich-ee-voh cee-bia: 'My goodness!'] How the gardens have grown!

DOCTOR:

But grown what, I wonder? (TO STOP) This is it - the spot where Tegan disappeared. We must be standing on the fault line.

OMINOUS RUMBLE OF THUNDER.

AKUNIN:

Then keep away, you madman!

GHOST TRACE OF A FUTURE EVENT ECHOES, AS WITH FREYA:

TEGAN: [FROM SCENE 77]

The ship's breaking up!

DOCTOR:

Tegan?

APPARITION DIES AWAY. ANOTHER RUMBLE OF THUNDER, MORE DISTANT.

AKUNIN:

A ghost sound. It has gone now.

DOCTOR:

Yes. Time is weak enough here to allow us to hear echoes from other periods, but that's all. Until the next ergostorm.

AKUNIN:

The voice said the ship was breaking up.

DOCTOR:

A projection from the future. It would appear we're running out of time.

SCENE 50. CORRIDOR BETA NINETEEN

TEGAN FOLLOWS SAVINIO ALONG

TEGAN:

Where are we going?

SAVINIO:

To the safest part of the ship – you remember? Where the time storms don't hit. I've been away too long already.

TEGAN:

I ought really to stay around here. In case the Doctor comes looking for me.

SAVINIO:

Tegan, you need to forget about him. And your other friend. You won't be seeing them again. I'm sorry.

TEGAN:

Where is this 'safe area', anyway?

SAVINIO:

The maintenance section. Down on the engine level. When we get to the elevator it's straight – [down.]

PLANT CREATURE:

(OFF, AHEAD) (RASPING/CLICKING BREATHING)

TEGAN:

(SOTTO) Oh, no! Ahead of us!

SAVINIO:

(QUIETLY) What is *that*?

TEGAN:

(SOTTO) By the sound it's making, it's whatever was hunting me, back in the botanical gardens. But that was in the Doctor's time. How did it get here?

SAVINIO:

(SOTTO) It must have been brought with you by the time storm. There is sometimes a slight spatial displacement... (BEAT) Stay still.

THE CREATURE SHUFFLING CLOSER

SAVINIO:

(SOTTO) You say it was *hunting* you? I think it has your scent.

SCENE 51. AKUNIN'S LAB

MAYNARD:

I can't believe any of it. Not Akunin. What could have happened to him to make him do... that?

NYSSA:

How long have you been in stasis?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

The Captain was taken ill seven days ago, madam.

NYSSA:

You think all *this* - all of these experiments, this clutter, this dust - you think they all happened in the last seven days?

MAYNARD:

No.

NYSSA:

I think Akunin was keeping you as another sample for his experiments. How were you taken ill?

MAYNARD:

I was stung, by one of the plant samples we took from the Alpha Caeli system.

NYSSA:

A fern? With yellow flowers?

MAYNARD:

Yes - on my leg. I barely felt it at the time. Then I started to lose all feeling. Akunin checked me into the sleeping bay as a precaution.

NYSSA:

May I see?

MAYNARD:

(ROLLING UP TROUSER LEG) If you must. I feel fine now. Maybe Akunin -

NYSSA:

(SHARP INTAKE OF BREATH) I'd say it's spread.

MAYNARD:

What? Let me - (SHOCK) Oh...!

NYSSA:

It's the whole leg. Maybe more. I'm sorry.

SCENE 52. BOTANICAL GARDENS

DOCTOR:

This is what we're going to do. We follow Tegan into the past, and with a little luck we find her and find the TARDIS.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Very good, sir.

AKUNIN:

What is – how does it go? – 'the catch'?

DOCTOR:

Yes. You're not going to like the next bit, either of you.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Fortunately I am not capable of possessing an opinion, sir.

AKUNIN:

Well?

DOCTOR:

The only way that rift will reopen is for another ergostorm to hit the Aquitaine.

AKUNIN:

Understood. But how are you to know when the next one will be?

DOCTOR:

Oh, I know exactly when it will be. But we can't afford to wait that long. So we need to move things along a bit. (BEAT)
Hargreaves?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Yes, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

I need you to plot a course for the centre of the black hole.

AKUNIN:

What?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Are you sure that's wise, sir?

DOCTOR:

No, I'm not. But the closer we get, the sooner the next ergostorm, the quicker we'll be able to enter the rift and recover my TARDIS.

AKUNIN:

But the Aquitaine will be destroyed!

DOCTOR:

There is that, yes. I'm sorry, Hargreaves. But it's our only choice.

AKUNIN:

We could stay here.

DOCTOR:

Not really an option, I'm afraid. If we stay here the ship will be destroyed in a matter of hours anyway.

AKUNIN:

Why should I believe you?

DOCTOR:

I happen to have some experience of this kind of thing. And I'm told I have an honest face.

AKUNIN:

You are not flying this vessel into the heart of a black hole! It's madness!

DOCTOR:

Did you hear what I said? The clock is ticking, Akunin. And it's nearly midnight.

AKUNIN:

I don't believe you. There has to be another way. (BEAT)
Hargreaves – restrain the Doctor!

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Certainly, Sir.

DOCTOR:

What?

AKUNIN:

You're a danger to this ship, Doctor. You need to be stopped!

SCENE 53. CORRIDOR BETA NINETEEN

SAVINIO:

(SOTTO) Hargreaves?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Yes, Lieutenant?

SAVINIO:

(SOTTO) Sshhh!

SHIP HARGREAVES:

(SOTTO) My apologies.

SAVINIO:

(SOTTO) Hargreaves, there's an unidentified lifeform in corridor beta nineteen. Can you see it?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

(SOTTO) I can indeed, Lieutenant. It is a most peculiar specimen. Possibly some kind of mobile plant-life.

TEGAN:

(SOTTO) Plant life?!

SAVINIO:

(SOTTO) I want you to close bulkheads B and C along that corridor. You got that? Seal the thing off, and give us time to get to safety.

SHIP HARGREAVES:

(SOTTO) I can do that, Sir. May I enquire - is Sir proposing to return to the engineering level?

SAVINIO:

(SOTTO) Yes, of course - (REALISATION) Damn!

TEGAN:

(SOTTO) What's wrong?

SAVINIO:

(SOTTO) The creature is between us and the elevator. We seal it in, we cut ourselves off from the other decks.

TEGAN:

(SOTTO) That's okay, though? Staying here's less dangerous than having that thing on the loose, surely?

SAVINIO:

(SOTTO) I have to get back to maintenance. And you have to come with me. Please don't argue.

TEGAN:

Hey! Get your hands off me!

SAVINIO:

Sshhh! (HISSED) Tegan, you're not being rational!

PLANT CREATURE LUMBERING FORWARD FROM OFF

TEGAN:

Oh, and *you* are? Look, I understand you're still sore about losing Jennings, but – (REALISATION) Is that it? You're taking me back to your hidey-hole as her replacement?!

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Sir, Madam, if I might interrupt...?

SAVINIO:

Shut up, Hargreaves!

SHIP HARGREAVES:

It's just that the life form [is –]

PLANT CREATURE'S VILE RATTLING BREATH AS IT LOOMS OVER SAVINIO

TEGAN:

(ALARM) Behind you!

IT SHOOTS OUT A TENDRIL AND STABS HIM IN THE SHOULDER

SAVINIO:

Aaaaarghhh!

TEGAN:

(TO PLANT CREATURE) Get away from him!

SAVINIO:

It... stabbed me...!

TEGAN:

Only in the shoulder. Same nasty trick as that plant did to Nyssa.

PLANT CREATURE RATTLING MENACINGLY

TEGAN:

Keep back! I'm warning you...!

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Madam, if I might make a suggestion...?

TEGAN:

I'm all ears, Hargreaves!

SHIP HARGREAVES:

(SOTTO) On the wall to your right, you will find a carbon dioxide extinguisher, containing pressurised foam for manual use in emergencies.

TEGAN:

Such as attacks by alien plant monsters?!

SAVINIO:

(PAINED) It's cold. It might... give us time...

TEGAN:

To get to the elevator, I get it.

COLLECTS EXTINGUISHER FROM WALL

TEGAN:

Alright – Savinio, get ready to run. If you can run.

SAVINIO:

I'll have to.

CREATURE MOVES CLOSER.

TEGAN:

Ready. Three, two, one, and –

SHE SETS OFF EXTINGUISHER.

PLANT CREATURE:

(EMITS A GHASTLY SHRIEK)

TEGAN:

Now, Savinio. Run!!!

SHE DROPS EXTINGUISHER. THEY STUMBLE-HOBBLE AWAY WHILE THE CREATURE SHRIEKS

SCENE 54. BOTANICAL GARDENS

DOCTOR:

We have a very small window of opportunity, Akunin. It's our only hope.

AKUNIN:

The Aquitaine cannot be destroyed. It is far more important than you realise.

DOCTOR:

I can save your friends, and I can save mine. Just give me the chance.

AKUNIN:

I'm not a selfish man, Doctor. You wish to rescue your companions, I understand. But can you set their lives against the destruction of an entire species?

DOCTOR:

What species? What are you talking about?

AKUNIN:

It began when Lieutenant Jennings became infected by one of the plant samples we had taken from a dying planet, Vetrius Three. A very promising sample, with many potential applications for human health – but it needed to be handled with care. Freya was... clumsy. The infection spread rapidly, and I realised the only way to halt its spread was to place her into suspended animation while I searched for a cure.

DOCTOR:

But you couldn't find one?

AKUNIN:

Oh no, I found one. That was simple – it can be found in the extract of the plant itself. But the plant is quite unique, you see. It produces no seeds; its only method of reproduction is to infect another organism with its DNA. The end result is something entirely new. A new species. So you see my dilemma? As a fellow scientist?

DOCTOR:

No, I'm not sure that I do.

AKUNIN:

To 'cure' the infection would be to kill it. I would be murdering a new species, butchering it at birth.

DOCTOR:

I see. And you think that would be... what? *Unethical?*

AKUNIN:

Exactly! The two lifeforms were incompatible – both would have died. I have been working instead to help marry the two species, to unite them. While my patients sleep, the new species grows and flowers inside them.

DOCTOR:

(SICKENED) You've been using your fellow crewmembers as host bodies?

AKUNIN:

I've created a new species, Doctor. Can you imagine anything finer? For men of science, such as ourselves? Anything nobler? You do understand, don't you Doctor?

DOCTOR:

I certainly do.

AKUNIN:

I have done the impossible. I have created life. They are my creation, my progeny! I call them my Akunites!

SCENE 55. INT ELEVATOR

DOOR CLOSES. SAVINIO SLUMPS TO THE FLOOR.

SAVINIO:

(PAINED BREATHING) Engineering deck. Deck Fourteen.

TEGAN:

But the Doctor!

SAVINIO:

(EXASPERATED) The Doctor...! He's not coming, Tegan!

TEGAN:

He *is*! I'm going to the observation deck.

TEGAN:

Deck... three. (PRESSES BUTTON) That's where he'll be. (BEAT) Why aren't we going anywhere? Hargreaves, why aren't we moving?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

My apologies, Madam. Only authorised personnel are permitted to use the elevators, a stricture enforced via the use of retinal scans.

TEGAN:

(SIGHS) Come on, then. Guess we'll have to do it your way after all, Savinio. – Savinio? Snap out of it, Savinio!

SAVINIO:

(SLURRING) There's something... wrong. I've been... poisoned.

TEGAN:

No... *No!*

SHE BANGS THE DOOR IN FRUSTRATION

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Madam, I thought you ought to know that the creature outside appears to have recovered.

A BANG ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE LIFT DOORS.

TEGAN:

Hargreaves, whatever else happens, keep these doors shut.

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Certainly, madam.

TEGAN:

Savinio, let me help you up. Just look into the screen, then we can be on our way.

TEGAN:/SAVINIO:
(EFFORT/GROANING)

TEGAN:
Here, is it? – Go on, Hargreaves. Do your stuff.

SHIP HARGREAVES:
Retinal scan... not recognised, I'm afraid.

TEGAN:
What do you mean? It's Savinio! Look at him!

SHIP HARGREAVES:
I'm afraid the gentleman's retinal scan does not match my records.

TEGAN:
His eyes do look kinda funny. Sort of... yellow.

SAVINIO:
(CROAKS) Hargreaves... it's me, Savinio. I'm ill. Please.

SHIP HARGREAVES:
I'm sorry, Sir. I cannot.

TEGAN:
Oh, come on!

SHE BANGS THE SIDE OF THE LIFT IN FRUSTRATION. BEAT. MORE BANGING FROM OUTSIDE.

TEGAN:
And you can be quiet!

SCENE 56. CORRIDOR

NYSSA SUPPORTS MAYNARD AS THEY STUMBLE ALONG

NYSSA:

This way, Captain. Back to the Sleeping Bay.

MAYNARD:

I can't... breathe. There's something in my lungs. The infection.

NYSSA:

It's not far. Come on.

MAYNARD:

I can feel it, Nyssa... it's in my head. Something alien, grasping at my mind.

NYSSA:

Then fight it. We can't be more than a few minutes away.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Sixteen minutes, at your current speed.

MAYNARD:

You have to go. Leave me.

NYSSA:

No, that's not going to happen.

MAYNARD:

Yes! There's something growing right here Nyssa, behind my eyes. Something that *wants you*. That wants to feed on you. It can smell your human scent, Nyssa. And it's making my heart beat faster.

NYSSA:

It's not far...!

MAYNARD:

You need to run. You get to get yourself as far away from me as possible.

NYSSA:

But...

MAYNARD:

Now! *Run!*

NYSSA RUNS

SCENE 57. BOTANICAL GARDENS

DOCTOR:

Well, Doctor Akunin - I'm lost for words. Truly.

AKUNIN:

Thank you.

DOCTOR:

To engineer a new lifeform.. quite *brilliant*. And you say you used your fellow crewmembers for the task?

AKUNIN:

Jennings was more of a test subject, an experiment. Maynard though, she is - or was - the host to my first-born. I thought it only fitting that the Captain should be the first true Akunite.

DOCTOR:

And Nyssa?

AKUNIN:

She too has been infected by one of my hybrids. She too will have evolved into an Akunite.

DOCTOR:

Are you listening to this, Hargreaves?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

With great interest, Doctor.

DOCTOR:

Good. For a man of such high morals, Akunin, you have a very poor grasp of robotic ethics.

AKUNIN:

Robotic ethics?! What are you talking about?

DOCTOR:

A robot - or ship's computer - may not injure a human being or... well, you tell us, Hargreaves.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Or through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.

DOCTOR:

First law of robotics. Feeling active, Hargreaves?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Absolutely, Sir.

SHIP ENGINES POWERING UP

AKUNIN:

What are you doing?

DOCTOR:

You talk of *ethics*? Jennings and Maynard trusted you to save their lives, and what did you do? (BEAT) Hargreaves, take this ship into the black hole.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Plotting a course now, sir.

AKUNIN:

But I am ranking officer!

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Not anymore, Dr Akunin. You are relieved of command.

AKUNIN:

Stop! Let go of me!

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

In the circumstances I have no option other than to restrain you, sir.

THE ENGINES ROAR. AN OMINOUS METALLIC GROAN

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Two minutes until the event horizon, Doctor.

AKUNIN:

You'll kill us all!

THE SHIP SHAKES.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

One hundred seconds.

AKUNIN:

Turn this ship around!

GHOSTLY VOICES BEGIN TO SWIRL AROUND THE ROOM, EG:

TEGAN: [FROM SCENE 30]

Doctor? Doctor! This is weird!

NYSSA: [FROM SCENE 16]

There's something else in here with us. Listen.

FREYA (GHOST): [FROM SCENE 11]

Ohhhh... Oh, it hurts. It hurts so much. (SOBS) Make it stop... Sergei, please.

MAYNARD: [FROM SCENE 56]

[...] it's in my head. Something alien, grasping at my mind.

DOCTOR:

It's too late now, Akunin. The time fracture is opening up!

MORE VIOLENT SHAKING AND ROAR OF SHIP ENGINES.

END OF EPISODE

PART FOUR

REPRISE:

DOCTOR:

It's too late now, Akunin. The time fracture is opening up!

MORE VIOLENT SHAKING AND ROAR OF SHIP ENGINES.

CONTINUES INTO:

SCENE 58. BOTANICAL GARDENS [CONTINUOUS]

EMERGENCY SIRENS SOUND AS THE AQUITAINE PLUNGES INTO THE BLACK HOLE. METAL RENT & TWISTED; VIOLENT SHAKING.

GHOSTLY VOICES [AS ABOVE] CONTINUE TO SWIRL AND ECHO, UNDER:

AKUNIN:

What's happening?

DOCTOR:

The past... the future... is breaking through. (DECISIVELY) Fancy an adventure, Hargreaves?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Where are we going, Sir?

DOCTOR:

Into the maelstrom.

AKUNIN:

That's madness!

DOCTOR:

Stay here or follow us, I really don't care.

SCENE 59. INT ELEVATOR

TEGAN:

It's been quiet for a while now. (BEAT) Maybe it's got bored and gone away.

SAVINIO:

(SLOW AND HOARSE – DYING) Do you think that creature used to be human? That it might have been Jennings? Or your friend?

TEGAN:

I'm trying not to think about that.

SAVINIO:

Then that's what's happening to me.

TEGAN:

Don't be so sure. I saw the plant that infected Nyssa, and that thing out there wasn't one of those. I think it just wanted to kill you.

WHOLE SHIP SHAKES, RATTLING THE ELEVATOR IN ITS CAGE

SAVINIO:

Another time storm?

TEGAN:

Feels like it. That's all we need.

SAVINIO:

This Doctor of yours... he's not coming.

TEGAN:

Oh, he'll come. Just when we're least expecting it, too. (BEAT) You'd like him, you know. Well - probably. He *is* the most annoying man I've ever met, admittedly. And he does keep getting me into situations like this... (BEAT) But I keep coming back. I can't even blame him for this one. We're only here because he was trying to help.

SAVINIO:

And your other friend?

TEGAN:

Nyssa. She's lovely. Just... too *good* for this world. (BEAT) I sometimes wish I could be more like her.

SAVINIO:

(EXHALES ONE LAST TIME)

TEGAN:

(OBLIVIOUS) If she was here she'd be doing something useful.
Not just prattling on, like a mouth on... [legs] (TRAILS OFF;
REALISATION) Savinio? Savinio? – Oh, hell.

SCENE 60. BOTANICAL GARDENS

SOUNDS OF DISTRESSED SHIP. SWIRLING WHIRLWIND OF VOICES
CONTINUES AS BEFORE, PLUS:

FREYA (GHOST): [FROM SCENE 23]
I can feel it. Growing. Growing inside me.

NYSSA: [FROM SCENE 5]
But that's an extraordinary rate of growth. Almost impossible!

MAYNARD: [FROM SCENE 56]
You need to run. You get to get yourself as far away from me as possible.

SAVINIO: [FROM SCENE 46]
Found you. My God. Who are you?

TEGAN: [FROM SCENE 53]
Hey! Get your hands off me!

OVER THIS:

DOCTOR:
Ready, Hargreaves?

BUTLER HARGREAVES:
Memory downloaded, sir. If you would be so kind as to remove my head. Just a twist anti-clockwise should do it.

LOUD CLICK

DOCTOR:
How's that?

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:
(IE, NOW A DISEMBODIED HEAD) Excellent, sir. Thank you.

DOCTOR:
Well, can't have you forgetting me again, can we?

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:
Absolutely not, sir. My cranial casing is constructed of tritanium alloy, which should help prevent the erasure of my hard drive. Fifteen seconds to event horizon.

AKUNIN:
And you're going to – what? Just walk through the time rift? With that robot's head tucked underneath your arm?

DOCTOR:
That's the idea. Ready, Hargreaves?

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

As I'll ever be, Sir.

DOCTOR:

Then here we go!!!

DOCTOR CHARGES INTO THE CACOPHONY OF VOICES.

AKUNIN:

No!!! Come back!!! Come back!!!

SCENE 61. CORRIDOR

NYSSA RUNS TO STOP.

MAYNARD:

(100 YDS DISTANT) (SCREAM OF PAIN)

NYSSA:

(BREATHING HARD) Poor woman.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

(TRUNDLING UP) May I be of assistance, Madam?

NYSSA:

(HUSHED) Shhhhh! – The Captain?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

(LOUDLY) Ah, yes. The weed problem round here is most vexatious. I find a squirt of herbicide usually does the trick.

NYSSA:

Never mind that now. – Which is the shortest route to the medical centre?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Down this corridor, Miss. Do you require medical attention?

NYSSA:

Yes – yes, I do. And quickly. – That's the way I came. Is there no other way?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Alas, not. Shall I escort you there?

MAYNARD:

(100 YDS DISTANT) (ROAR OF PAIN)

NYSSA:

I don't think it's going to be as easy as that.

SCENE 62. BOTANICAL GARDENS

CACOPHONY OF VOICES ABRUPTLY ENDS, AS THE DOCTOR IS EJECTED FROM THE TIME FISSURE

DOCTOR:

Goodness. What an unpleasant way to travel. Hargreaves?

BOTH HARGREAVES THE SHIP'S COMPUTER AND HARGREAVES THE ROBOTIC HEAD ANSWER HIM:

SHIP HARGREAVES/BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Yes?

DOCTOR:

Yes, this could get confusing. Hargreaves – I mean you, head Hargreaves –

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Yes, sir?

DOCTOR:

Could you bring your shipboard counterpart up to speed on who I am, who you are and why we're here?

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

With pleasure, Sir. Sending memory files.

A BURST OF RAPID COMPUTER NOISE TO SIGNIFY THIS CONVERSATION. BEAT.

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Well! What an extraordinary story!

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Is it not!

SHIP HARGREAVES:

And it explains so much. The dust!

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Yes, and the vegetation!

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Quite so. Oh, what a relief.

DOCTOR:

If you've quite finished – could one of you do a quick life scan, and tell me where Tegan is?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Of course, Sir. (COGITATES BRIEFLY, THEN:) Miss Tegan is in the central elevator on this level. It can most easily be reached by access corridor beta fifteen.

DOCTOR:

The elevator? What's she doing there?

SCENE 63. CORRIDOR

DISTANT ROAR OF PLANT CREATURE THAT WAS MAYNARD.

NYSSA:

How far to the sick bay, Hargreaves? From here, I mean?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Twenty-three minutes, Miss.

NYSSA:

And that's if we can get past Captain Maynard first.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Captain Maynard is not aboard this vessel.

NYSSA:

That creature, then.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

I fear the question is moot, Miss. Your infection is spreading by the minute. At such a rate of progression...

NYSSA:

I know. – Then there's only one thing to do. Before the infection spreads any further. Hargreaves, I need you to amputate my arm.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Goodness me, madam. What an extraordinary request.

SCENE 64. CORRIDOR BETA FIFTEEN

THE DOCTOR STRIDES TO HALT.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

This would be the elevator in question, sir.

DOCTOR:

Excellent.

PRESSES BUTTON. DOORS SLIDE OPEN.

TEGAN:

(INSIDE) Doctor!

DOCTOR:

Tegan! – Ah. Who's that in there with you?

TEGAN:

That was Lieutenant Savinio.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Oh dear. I'm sorry.

TEGAN:

So am I. (BEAT) Doctor, it was the creature – the one that was hunting me before. It's still around here somewhere.

DOCTOR:

Is it indeed? Then we need to find the TARDIS.

TEGAN:

Suits me fine. Where is it?

DOCTOR:

What do you mean, where is it? It was brought here by the time storm, along with you and the creature.

TEGAN:

No it wasn't!

DOCTOR:

What...? (BEAT) Are you sure?

TEGAN:

Of course I'm sure! It's hard to miss.

DOCTOR:

I don't understand. It was definitely taken by the ergostorm – (REALISATION) Of course! Stupid of me! The fail-safes will have kicked in.

TEGAN:

Failsafes?

DOCTOR:

The Time Anomaly Relocation Distributors! When the old girl detected the anomaly's effects, she'd have automatically shifted herself forward in time, to prevent herself being lost in limbo.

TEGAN:

How far?

DOCTOR:

Oh, only an hour or two.

TEGAN:

So what do we do? Sit around and wait for it to turn up?

DOCTOR:

Well, we've no choice about the waiting, but the sitting around is optional. Personally I'd advise against it.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Indeed, Sir.

DOCTOR:

There's Nyssa to think about, for one thing. We need to find a cure for her infection.

TEGAN:

Okay. How?

DOCTOR:

You're not going to like the answer. We need a cutting from the plant that infected Nyssa.

TEGAN:

You mean we need to go back in *there* to get it? Into the botanical gardens?

DOCTOR:

Yes and no. Yes, we need to go back in there. No, not to find the same plant that infected Nyssa – as it's most likely dead.

TEGAN:

Then why are we going back in there?

DOCTOR:

Ah. Well, you're definitely not going to like this bit.

SCENE 65. CORRIDOR

PLANT CREATURE ROARING OFF.

NYSSA:

Could you do it, Hargreaves? Amputate, I mean?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

I am a gardening droid, Miss. I do not have the necessary tools.

NYSSA:

You have a saw, don't you?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Yes, Miss. But no anaesthetic. And no method of sterilisation. The procedure would be painful, and extremely dangerous.

NYSSA:

Better that than... the alternative.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

I fear it is too late for such a procedure to work, Miss. Removing your arm will not remove the infection.

NYSSA:

So I'll turn into one of those things anyway?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Yes, Miss.

NYSSA:

And there's nothing I can do.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

You could halt the progress of the infection, Miss.

NYSSA:

But how? (REALISATION) Like Akunin halted it in Maynard, by placing myself in cryo-sleep!

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

An admirable idea, Miss.

ROAR OF PLANT CREATURE, OFF.

NYSSA:

We just need to get there...

SCENE 66. BOTANICAL GARDENS

TEGAN AND THE DOCTOR WALK THROUGH UNDERGROWTH

TEGAN:

Doctor, why are you carrying Hargreaves' head around with you?

DOCTOR:

Because he's absolutely indispensable. If a little cumbersome.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

My apologies, sir.

THE SHIP LURCHES. METAL INFRASTRUCTURE GROANING, UNDER PRESSURE FROM IMMENSE FORCES.

TEGAN:

What was that? *Another* time storm?

DOCTOR:

I don't think so. I have a feeling this is just an echo of what's happening in the present. Kineto-temporal feedback – very nasty.

TEGAN:

Certainly sounds it. What *is* happening in the present?

AKUNIN:

(EMERGING FROM UNDERGROWTH) The Aquitaine is flying into the heart of the black hole – at the behest of your friend here. Isn't that right, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

Ah. There you are – like a bad penny.

TEGAN:

Doctor Akunin, I presume?

AKUNIN:

And you must be Tegan.

DOCTOR:

(TO AKUNIN) So, you decided to jump in after us. – What do you want, Akunin?

AKUNIN:

Before he decided to send us all to our doom, the Doctor and I were having a most interesting discussion on medical ethics. Unfortunately it was left unfinished.

DOCTOR:

I don't have time to chat now – sorry. I'm rather busy.

AKUNIN:

Oh, I think you can find the time, don't you?

HE PRODUCES A SPACE WEAPON – CHARGING UP FX?

TEGAN:

Doctor, he's got a gun!

AKUNIN:

Now will you talk?

DOCTOR:

There's nothing to talk about. Your so-called Akunites are a biological blind-alley that should never have existed in the first place.

AKUNIN:

Oh, be careful, Doctor...

DOCTOR:

You won't kill me. You need me to save your ship, and its iniquitous cargo.

AKUNIN:

Iniquitous? The Akunites? Who are you to judge them so?

WE HEAR THE DISTINCTIVE SHUFFLE OF AN APPROACHING PLANT CREATURE – SNIFFING THEM OUT

DOCTOR:

Judge for yourself...

AKUNIN:

An Akunite!

TEGAN:

Keep well back, Doctor – those things are lethal.

THE CREATURE COMES CLOSER.

AKUNIN:

A fully-grown specimen – it's beautiful!

TEGAN:

It's horrible.

DOCTOR:

I'm inclined to agree. Hardly the new evolutionary paradigm you promised, Akunin.

AKUNIN:

(APPROACHING CREATURE) Do you know who I am? (BEAT) I am your creator!

TEGAN:

(SOTTO) Doctor, he's flipped!

DOCTOR:

(SOTTO) Long ago, I'm afraid.

AKUNIN:

I nurtured you, I made you...!

TEGAN:

How could you?! That thing might have been a friend of yours. – Or mine...

DOCTOR:

Tegan, I'm sure it's not Nyssa.

TEGAN:

You don't know that!

DOCTOR:

Look at the scar tissue; the irregular formation of these appendicular nodes. This creature has had tissue samples taken from it, again and again. From what Akunin has told me, I'd say this was once Lieutenant Jennings.

AKUNIN:

He's right! Freya! It is you...! – You understood why, didn't you, Freya? We have a saying in Russia – *Oo medalee dve storonee* [oo med-ah-lee **da**-vear star-ranee] – 'There are two sides to a medal.' You understand now, yes? Your sacrifice wasn't in vain.

FREYA/PLANT CREATURE:

(HOARSELY – TRACE OF ORIGINAL VOICE) Akunin? *Akunin!*

TEGAN:

(WARNING) Look out, it's gonna strike!!!

CREATURE ROARS AND DARTS OUT A TENDRIL, STABBING AKUNIN THROUGH THE HEART

AKUNIN:

Aaaaaargh!

TEGAN:

That's what happened to Savinio.

NOISY SLURPING SOUNDS

TEGAN:

Urgh – now it's feeding on him!

AKUNIN:

(DYING) *Chto posyeyesh to I pozhnyosh...* [sh-to pah-see-yesh toe ee pazh-nyosh...] (DIES)

MORE HORRID SLURPING

DOCTOR:

'As you sow, so shall you reap.'

TEGAN:

Yes – well it could be us next. Come on, let's go!

DOCTOR:

Take Hargreaves' head, Tegan. (PASSES IT) There's something I need to do, while it's distracted. I'll be right behind you.

TEGAN:

You promise?

DOCTOR:

Yes. Now – *go!*

TEGAN RUNS OFF, AND THE DOCTOR SQUATS NEXT TO THE FEEDING MONSTER

DOCTOR:

Now... gently does it...

SCENE 67. CORRIDOR

MAYNARD CREATURE GROWLING, PACING CORRIDOR.

NYSSA:

(APPROACHING) Captain Maynard?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

(BESIDE HER) Careful, Ma'am.

MAYNARD/PLANT CREATURE:

(STOPS, SNIFFS, GROWLS)

NYSSA:

Do you remember me? Nyssa.

MAYNARD/PLANT CREATURE:

Nysssss-ah.

NYSSA:

Yes, Nyssa. I'm so sorry, for what Akunin did to you.

MAYNARD/PLANT CREATURE:

Akunin... was... right. Before... I was weak. But now... I am cured.

NYSSA:

Stay back, Captain. I don't want to hurt you...

MAYNARD/PLANT CREATURE:

You? Hurt me? (THROATY CHUCKLE)

NYSSA:

You're not as strong as you think. Hargreaves? Are you ready?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Yes, Madam.

WHIRRING ATTACHMENT

MAYNARD/PLANT CREATURE:

What issss that?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Weedkiller, ma'am. I'm afraid it may sting a little.

NYSSA:

Now, Hargreaves!

HARGREAVES SPRAYS MAYNARD WITH WEEDKILLER

MAYNARD/PLANT CREATURE:

No! It burns! Arggghhhhhh!

NYSSA:

Hurry, Hargreaves!

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Yes, Miss.

THEY RUN/TRUNDLE AWAY

SCENE 68. CORRIDOR BETA FOURTEEN

THE DOCTOR CATCHES UP WITH TEGAN

TEGAN:

Doctor. Did you get it? The cutting?

DOCTOR:

I think so.

TEGAN:

Good. One less thing to worry ab[out] -

A CRASH. THE SHIP SHAKES AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE GROANS AS BEFORE. THIS TIME IT DOESN'T ABATE, BUT CONTINUES FOR THE REST OF THE SCENE.

TEGAN:

Woah. (BEAT) Is that your... whatever-it-was feedback, like before?

DOCTOR:

It is. And definitely getting worse. Things must be serious in the present.

TEGAN:

Didn't you say we're only a couple of hours behind the present?

DOCTOR:

And catching up all the time. We'll be arriving on board the Aquitaine before too long...

TEGAN:

But - that doesn't make any sense! We can't have already been here when we arrived. We'd have met ourselves!

DOCTOR:

It's the effects of the black hole. Time is more than usually malleable here. It's quite possible that the ship could be destroyed before we ever arrive...

TEGAN:

Wouldn't that create one of those paradoxes you're always going on about?

DOCTOR:

Ordinarily, yes. But this black hole's big enough to swallow the paradox without a second thought. Might give it temporal indigestion, but that's about... (TRAILS OFF)

TEGAN:

What is it?

DOCTOR:

The hairs on the back of my neck are standing up.

TEGAN:

I'm not surprised.

DOCTOR:

You don't understand. When the hairs on the back of my neck are standing up, it usually means one of two things. Either I'm stood in a draft - or...

TARDIS MATERIALISING, SOME WAY OFF

TEGAN:

The TARDIS!

DOCTOR:

I knew she wouldn't let me down. Come on!

THEY RUN. CROSS TO:

SCENE 69. BOTANICAL GARDENS

THEY RUN THROUGH THE UNDERGROWTH TOWARDS THE TARDIS, THE SHIP
CREAKING AND GROANING AROUND THEM.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

What an unusual vessel, madam. Unassuming yet elegant.

TEGAN:

Elegant? The TARDIS?

THEY REACH THE TARDIS. THE DOCTOR PUTS THE KEY IN THE LOCK.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Though a little dirty, if I may be so bold. Have you ever
considered a beeswax polish?

DOCTOR:

Not right this moment, thank you Hargreaves.

THEY ENTER. INTO:

SCENE 70. INT TARDIS [CONTINUOUS]

INTERIOR DOORS CLOSE

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Goodness! Well, this is unexpected.

TEGAN:

It travels in time as well, you know.

DOCTOR:

You sound almost proud, Tegan.

TEGAN:

Well, it is home. Kind of. (BEAT) So what now? How do we find Nyssa?

DOCTOR:

That is a very good question, Tegan. One that I've been mulling over for some time. Unfortunately I still don't have a good answer.

TEGAN:

You mean – you *can't* find her?

DOCTOR:

Finding you was relatively simple, Tegan. For one thing you'd only jumped a single time track – nothing at all in the grand scheme of things; and for another, we had a precise fix on your location at the time.

TEGAN:

And Nyssa?

DOCTOR:

As far as I can tell, Nyssa was sent back several decades. Even if I could get an accurate fix on her location at the time, it won't be any help now. In all likelihood she'll have been sent back and forward throughout the history of the ship by successive time storms, just like the rest of the crew.

TEGAN:

Hasn't the TARDIS got some kind of gizmo that can search her out? Scan for her throughout time as well as space?

DOCTOR:

I'm touched by your faith, Tegan, but unfortunately not.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

So my crew are lost as well?

DOCTOR:

We already know most of their fates, Hargreaves. Akunin is dead; Savinio is dead; and Jennings became the creature out there.

TEGAN:

There must be something we can do.

DOCTOR:

A solution will present itself. It always does. Nearly always. (SHORT BEAT) If only we had more time...

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Might I suggest something, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

Um – well yes, of course.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

In a sense, I can go back in time.

TEGAN:

You? How?

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

I can create a system restore point. In my own memory. If I were to travel back in time I could endeavour to put things right.

DOCTOR:

But... but that's brilliant, Hargreaves!

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Well, thank you Sir.

TEGAN:

Would someone explain what's going in?

DOCTOR:

Hargreaves is the one fixed point in all this temporal chaos. He may have rebooted goodness knows how many times, but he hasn't *physically* moved an inch.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

My crew may be scattered through time and space, but my central processors have not moved from their location in the ship's core since the day we arrived here.

DOCTOR:

(RUMMAGING UNDER CONSOLE) If we can connect Hargreaves to the TARDIS... with this... we can connect him to his earlier iteration from fifty years ago... (HE PRODUCES A LEAD WITH AN ADAPTOR ON THE END) I'll have to plug you in, Hargreaves, if that's alright?

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Be my guest, sir.

BUSINESS AS THE DOCTOR PLUGS HARGREAVES IN.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Goodness. I feel... (BEAT) I cannot describe how I feel. I do not have the language.

DOCTOR:

Hargreaves, you're now connected to the TARDIS' temporal exchanger. If you can reboot back to your earliest system restore point, you'll be in contact with your earlier self.

TEGAN:

From fifty years ago?!

DOCTOR:

Indeed. You'll be entirely in synch – in a sense you'll exist physically in both time periods at once. It might feel a little odd.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Odd is not the word...

DOCTOR:

Now, the TARDIS will prevent you shorting out when the first wave of the time storm hits – you understand? You won't reboot.

TEGAN:

So what's he going to do when he's there?

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

I thought I would engineer an emergency and persuade the crew to enter the cryogenic sleeping bays.

DOCTOR:

Before the first of the ergostorms takes place!

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Indeed. And wake them again in just a few moments from now – enabling you to coordinate a safe evacuation of the Aquitaine on board your own vessel.

TEGAN:

But - that's brilliant, Hargreaves!

DOCTOR:

That's what I said.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

It's nothing, really.

DOCTOR:

Oh, and issue the distress call. Don't forget that, it's vital - otherwise we won't be able to pick it up, and instead of coming here we'll find ourselves wrapped up in a rather nasty paradox. Talking of which - we need to take ourselves out of this time zone, otherwise we'll get stuck in a temporal dead-end... (BEAT) Oh no...

TEGAN:

What?

DOCTOR:

Nyssa is still somewhere in the original time line. If we nullify that time line...

TEGAN:

You mean - if we change time so none of this ever happened, the crew will all be safe in their 'sleeping bays' - but Nyssa will be trapped in your... temporal dead-end thing?

DOCTOR:

Pretty much. Which means we - (BREAKS OFF) 'Sleeping bays', of course.

TEGAN:

What?

DOCTOR:

'Sleeping bays'!!!

HE OPENS THE DOORS. EXITS

TEGAN:

Doctor, where are you going?! - Wait up. Doctor!

SHE FOLLOWS HIM OUT

SCENE 71. CORRIDOR

NYSSA AND HARGREAVES RUN TO HALT.

NYSSA:

Is it still following us?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

I do not believe so, Miss. And we are nearly at our destination.

NYSSA:

Sleeping Bay Five.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

I will ensure that your condition is immediately arrested.

NYSSA:

Thank you, Hargreaves. But - who will ever find me? My companions are unreachable... somewhere in the future.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Madam could leave them a message. I would be happy to pass it on.

NYSSA:

Something tells me you'd forget it again long before you had the chance... (BEAT) But you're right - a message is the answer. Just something more permanent...

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Did you have something in mind?

NYSSA:

(DAWNING REALISATION) *Of course!* (LAUGHS SOFTLY) Yes, Hargreaves, I do.

SCENE 72. BOTANICAL GARDENS

SOUNDS OF THE BUFFETING SHIP CUT ACROSS THE RAINFOREST

DOCTOR:

Look at this, Tegan. Remind you of anything?

TEGAN:

Yeah. There's been weird graffiti scratched into the walls all over the ship.

DOCTOR:

Etched into the lichen on the walls, mostly. And faded with age, to the extent that the original messages have been all but lost. This one's more legible than most, though.

TEGAN:

Still doesn't mean anything to me, I'm afraid.

DOCTOR:

Ah, but to a crossword buff like myself it does. If you put all these fragments together, they overlap rather nicely.

TEGAN:

They do?

DOCTOR:

They do. Here, I'll fill in the missing letters for you.

HE SCRATCHES THE MISSING LETTERS INTO THE MOSS ON THE WALL.

TEGAN:

Beeping... (BEAT) Bay... (BEAT) Five. What's that supposed to mean?

SCENE 73. CORRIDOR/SLEEPING BAY FIVE

HISS OF WEEDKILLER SPRAY ON WALL

NYSSA:

Will that be enough messages? We don't really have time.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

I've asked my other droid forms to reproduce the same message, elsewhere throughout the ship. (STOPS SPRAYING) But I'm afraid weedkiller spray isn't the most precise of writing implements, ma'am. This one appears to read 'Beeping Bay Five,' not 'Sleeping Bay Five.'

NYSSA:

Well, I'm sure they'll get the gist of it. (GASPS) The infection is spreading.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

The Bay is ready, if you'd care to step this way?

HISS OF DOORS OPENING. THEY WALK INTO THE SLEEPING BAY AREA.

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Our sleeping pods are medium-range, designed to serve their occupants for up to 100 years. That's it, Miss – just lie down and relax.

NYSSA:

(LIES DOWN) What if I'm never found? What if I never wake up?

GARDENER HARGREAVES:

Do not fret, Miss. Sleep will come quickly. You will not dream, and you will not worry. You will be frozen in time. When you wake, you will feel rested.

NYSSA:

I do hope so.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

And if you do not wake, then you will know nothing about it.

NYSSA:

(SARCASTIC) Thank you, Hargreaves.

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

Not at all, Miss. Goodnight.

NYSSA:

Goodnight, Hargreaves.

WITH A HISS, THE POD DOOR SLOWLY CLOSES. FADE.

SCENE 75. SLEEPING BAYS – 50 YEARS LATER

FADE UP. WITH A HISS THE DOOR REOPENS.

NYSSA:

(DROWSILY) Hargreaves? Hargreaves, is there something wrong? Why have you reopened the – Tegan?!

TEGAN:

And the Doctor.

NYSSA:

Thank goodness you found me.

DOCTOR:

Eventually. (BEAT) It's... good to see you again.

TEGAN:

Come here, you. Give us a hug..

SHE TRIES TO HUG NYSSA

NYSSA:

Tegan, be careful. I'm still infected. I couldn't find a cure..

TEGAN:

That's okay, we did. The Doctor took a cutting, whipped something up in the TARDIS lab.

DOCTOR:

There was a little more to it than that.

ENORMOUS CRASH AS THE SHIP BUCKLES UNDER THE PRESSURE

DOCTOR:

Hurry. We need to get back to the TARDIS. There's still work to do...

ALL RUN.

SCENE 74. TARDIS

FADE UP. DOCTOR, TEGAN & NYSSA RUN IN. DOORS CLOSE BEHIND.

DOCTOR:

All set, Hargreaves?

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

The system restore point has been created. I am ready to reboot myself when you give the word.

DOCTOR:

Consider it given.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Goodbye, Doctor.

TEGAN:

Good luck, Jeeves.

NYSSA:

Yes. Good luck...

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Thank you, Misssssssssssssss...

HARGREAVES LAST WORDS MUTATE INTO LENGTHY GLITCHY COMPUTER CODE, MIXED WITH TARDIS ENGINE. THE NOISE BUILDS TO A CRESCENDO...

SCENE 75. AQUITAINE CONTROL ROOM

THEN SUDDENLY WE'RE BACK IN THE CONTROL ROOM OF THE AQUITAINE,
50 YEARS AGO.

FADE UP ON STEADY HUM OF SHIP ENGINES, AND OCCASIONAL COMPUTER
BEEPS:

SAVINIO:

... the readings are strange. Look at this spike, here. And this
one here.

MAYNARD:

It looks like a double image. Could it be a fault with the
sensor array?

FREYA:

Hargreaves says not. He says the data is 100% confirmed.

MAYNARD:

Doctor Akunin, how much longer do you need to collect your
samples?

AKUNIN:

Two weeks. Maybe less.

MAYNARD:

Very well. Two weeks. Keep me inf[ormed] -

SUDDENLY, THE SHIP ALARM SOUNDS

MAYNARD:

What's that? Hargreaves?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

The ship hull is breached, ma'am.

FREYA:

What?!

MAYNARD:

But how? How serious is it?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

The Aquitaine is losing atmospheric pressure at a worrying
rate. I suggest one engages the emergency protocols
immediately.

BEAT

MAYNARD:

Very well.

AKUNIN:

But...?

MAYNARD:

Everybody to the sleeping pods – calmly, but quickly. Now!

GRADUAL FADE OUT FRANTIC ACTIVITY, RUNNING FOOTSTEPS AND ALARM.

FADE IN GENTLE HUM OF SHIP ENGINES, AND OCCASIONAL COMPUTER BEEPS:

BUTLER HARGREAVES:

And then I wait. I wait, for fifty-three years.

I keep busy. I do the dusting, vacuum the carpets, polish the silverware and prune back the plants. I keep a tidy ship, even though I know that no-one will see the results for decades hence, and even then for only a few scant minutes.

I teach Butterworth to play draughts, then dominos, then chess. Once or twice I even let him win.

Outside, the lights of a thousand galaxies twinkle in the infinite darkness. The Aquitaine is buffeted by time storms, but this time I am not affected – my memories shielded inside their impregnable shell.

Slowly, the days turn into months, and the months turn into years. And then...

SCENE 76. SLEEPING BAY

ALMIGHTY THUNDER AND THE SOUND OF THE METAL FABRIC OF THE AQUITANE BEING RIPPED APART. ALARMS SOUND.

IN THE MIDST OF IT ALL, WE HEAR THE SLEEPING PODS OPEN WITH A HISS.

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Good afternoon, Captain.

MAYNARD:

(DISORIENTATED) What... what's happening? The hull breach...

DOCTOR:

The hull is the least of your problems, I'm afraid. The Aquitaine is being torn apart in four dimensions, as it follows a rapidly decaying orbit into a black hole.

MAYNARD:

(DISORIENTATED) What? Who are you?

SHIP HARGREAVES:

Captain, do not be alarmed. This is the Doctor. I urge you most strongly to follow his advice.

MAYNARD:

What advice?

DOCTOR:

We need to abandon ship. Now.

MAYNARD:

Abandon ship?

DOCTOR:

My own vessel is aboard. If we can reach it in time.

AKUNIN:

(STAGGERS OVER) Captain?

SAVINIO:

Who are these people?

DOCTOR:

I'm with the rescue party.

FREYA:

What's happening? Captain?

DOCTOR:

Ah, Lieutenant Jennings. Good to see you looking so well.

FREYA:

Have we met?

DOCTOR:

Yes and no. Now come on! All of you!

MAYNARD:

But...

DOCTOR:

Now!

ALL RUN.

SCENE 77. AQUITAINE BOTANICAL GARDENS

RAINFOREST FX, MIXED WITH TREMENDOUS CRASHES AND METALLIC STRAINING SOUNDS.

TEGAN:

(FRETFUL, BY TARDIS) Where is he?

NYSSA:

He'll be here.

TEGAN:

The ship's breaking up! He'll never make it!

CREW & DOCTOR CRASHING THROUGH UNDERGROWTH, OFF.

DOCTOR:

(OFF) This way, everybody! Not a moment to lose!

NYSSA:

There they are!

TEGAN:

(SHOUTING) Shift it, Doc!

SCENE 78. INT. TARDIS

START WITH THE APOCALYPTIC SOUND OF THE AQUITAINE FINALLY SUCCUMBING TO THE BLACK HOLE'S EMBRACE.

SWITCH TO THE INTERIOR OF THE TARDIS. SCANNER CLOSING.

DOCTOR:

And there goes the Aquitaine. Into H.E. zero-four five-zero two-nine five-eight. Pity.

MAYNARD:

I don't know how I'm going to explain it to the Company. Losing a ship...

NYSSA:

There's a lesson to be learned. Black holes are best studied from a distance.

DOCTOR:

Or left to the experts.

SAVINIO:

The experts?

TEGAN:

He's just showing off.

AKUNIN:

It was more than just a ship. The loss of the botanical collection is a tragedy.

DOCTOR:

Maybe. Although some of the specimens were better off un-catalogued, I think.

AKUNIN:

We'll have to take your word for that.

FREYA:

I'm happy to. That was quite some rescue.

DOCTOR:

As I say, Hargreaves will fill you in on the details. Well, most of them. (TO HIMSELF) Some are best forgotten.

TEGAN:

Talking of whom... hadn't you better unplug him?

DOCTOR:

Ah, yes - good idea.

HE UNPLUGS HARGREAVES' HEAD FROM THE CONSOLE.

DOCTOR:

Here he is, the hero of the hour. Hargreaves? Are you with us?

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Doctor. I feel a trifle discombobulated. It is a most peculiar sensation, to experience one's own death.

NYSSA:

But you're here, Hargreaves. You're alive.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

Nevertheless, ma'am, I was the Aquitaine. And now I am not. I feel rather... incapacitated.

TEGAN:

At least you don't have to worry about the dusting any more.

DOCTOR:

Or the seven thousand tasks on your to-do list.

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

(SADLY) I suppose not.

NYSSA:

Can't we keep him, Doctor?

TEGAN:

Yeah, could be handy having a butler aboard.

DOCTOR:

I don't need a valet!

BUTLER HARGREAVES [HEAD]:

(LIKES THE IDEA) But sir. Surely every gentleman should have a personal gentleman?

DOCTOR:

Do you think?

MAYNARD:

(INTERRUPTING) Hargreaves is coming with us. His memory banks are the only proof of what really happened aboard the Aquitaine.

DOCTOR:

Quite. — Besides, I don't think I could possibly drink that much tea.

THE END